



CONSULATE GENERAL
OF JAPAN IN TORONTO
在トロント日本国総領事館

2 0 2 6

HAIKU

SAKURA



CHALLENGE

D I G I T A L A N T H O L O G Y

FOREWORD

The Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto is pleased to present the 5th Annual Sakura Haiku Challenge 2026 Digital Anthology, featuring haiku and artwork submitted from 43 countries around the world. This year marked a record number of submissions, with more than 367 haiku received.

This year our anthology follows the seasonal progression of Toronto's Sakura trees through four stages: Tsubomi (budding), Kaika (first bloom), Mankai (full bloom), and Sakura Fubuki (blizzard of falling cherry blossoms). These phases reflect both the physical transformation of the blossoms and the changing themes of the season, from anticipation and new beginnings to beauty, impermanence, and renewal. Each haiku has been grouped according to the imagery it evokes within these stages.

We hope this anthology captures the spirit of Toronto's cherry blossom season and that you enjoy 2026 iteration of the Sakura Haiku Challenge!

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蕾

Tsubomi

**budding first
the cherry blossom
within my heart**

*Joanna Ashwell
United Kingdom*



**snowshoe spring:
against the wind chill
white fuzz buds**

*Haiku by Christopher Hanlon
Photograph by Lawrence Klein
Alberta, Canada*



cherry blossoms —
storm clouds over the hills
the still valley

Petra Lorenz
Germany

**Stand tall ever long
Beauty, Health, Love, Brings new rains
Wade with warriors**

*Connor Kassam
Ontario, Canada*



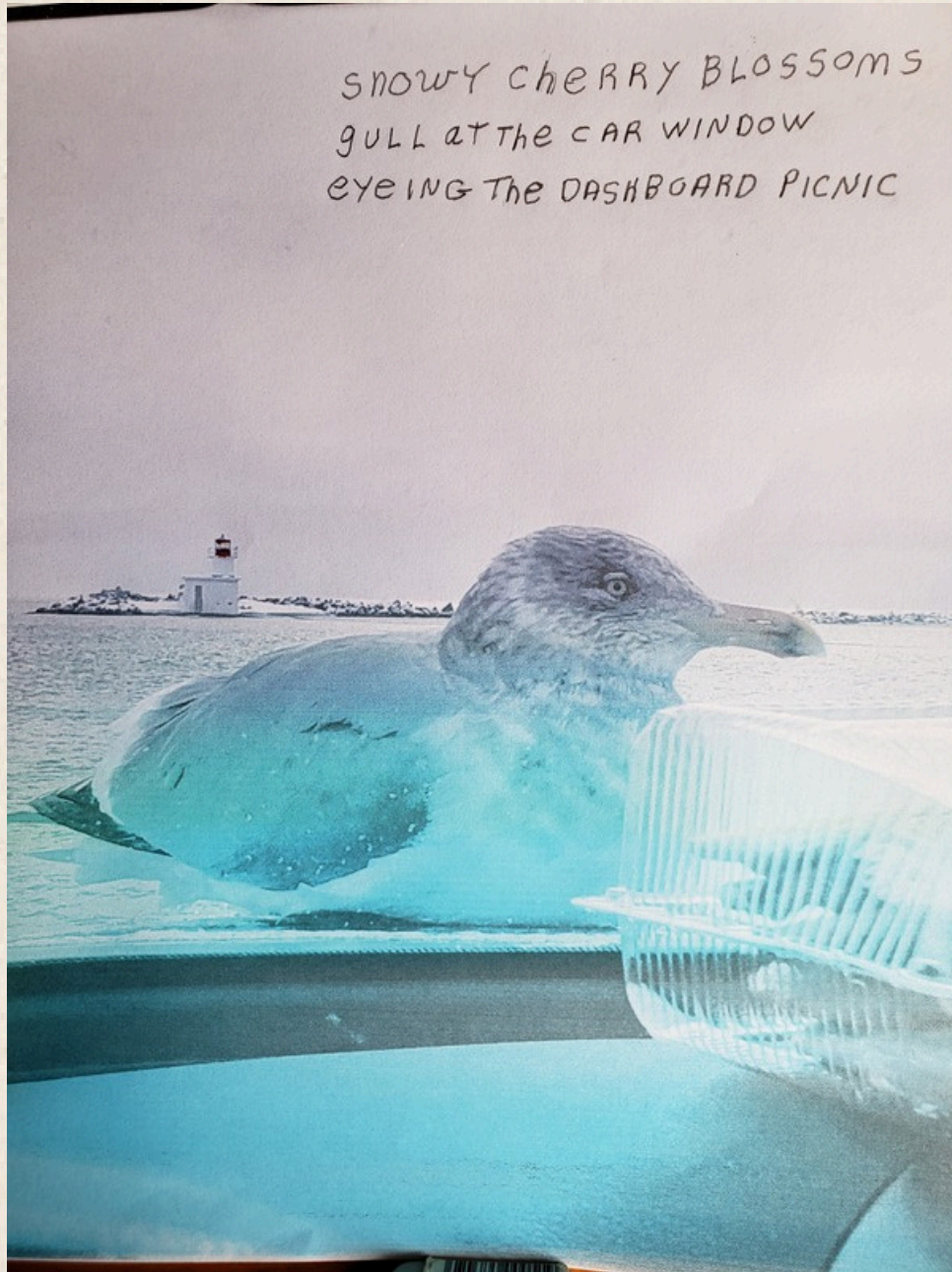
a newborn's cry —
the cherry tree restarts
its cycle

Carmela Marino
Italy

**a monochromatic day
trying to remember
the color of spring**

*Katrina Serwe
Wisconsin, United States*

SNOWY CHERRY BLOSSOMS
GULL AT THE CAR WINDOW
EYEING THE DASHBOARD PICNIC



*Brendan Hewitt
Québec, Canada*

**cherry blossom branches
ancestors weave
the sky**

*Martina Matijević
Croatia*

restricted zone—
this year's sakura
on the crater's lip

Sandip Chauhan
Virginia, United States

**another war
erupting over there
cherry blossoms**

*Sarah Paris
United States*

sakura
what a sweet name
for a vacuum cleaner

Zrinko Šimunić
Croatia

**pink bonsai cherry
a child in the drug store
stops crying**

*Silva Trstenjak
Croatia*

**Gentle thaw, buds form
among the trees, ushering
in a sense of spring**

*Anonymous
Canada*



**inside
cherry blossoms
a temple**

*Maryam Mermey, PhD
Maine, United States*

**cherry blossoms
a blue-white flycatcher
sings a love song**

*Corine Timmer
Portugal*



spring breeze—
among cherry branches
blooming moon

*Capotă Daniela Lăcrămioara
Romania*

**young pavement artist
attests to his depth of skill
paints cherry blossom**

*Francis Attard
Malta*

verse o' spring —
hiyodori warble odes
to somei yoshino

Saad Ali
Pakistan / United Kingdom



**The winter ends, the light returns
My heart feels warmer
Sakura season is almost here**

*Susan Howling
Canada*

**Blue light above,
March twenty-first Sakura,
white-pink below**

*Daniele Gandolfi
Italy*

**nature's lottery
predicting the peak bloom of
our cherry blossoms**

*Sebastian Chrobak
Poland*

**cherry blossoms
how to find the words
to say I miss you**

*Boryana Boteva
Bulgaria*

cherry blossoms again
my bucket list
still on the fridge

Elisa Theriana
Indonesia



**budding cherry
first love slowly unfolds
in the diary**

*Deborah Karl-Brandt
Germany*

**cherry blossom
teacup
waiting for a kiss**

*N.E. Taylor
California, United States*

**contemplation —
on the war tears
cherry blossoms**

*Maria Teresa Sisti
Italy*

**Five petals still closed
The Sakura remains sealed
A cold hug of Spring**

*Alejandra Gutierrez
Ontario, Canada*

**imposters of you...
thinking the magnolias
were cherry blossoms**

*Jackie Chou
California, United States*

**Spring arriving;
Rapture of a bird
Concealed in blossom**

*Bill Shannon
Scotland*

**in its wisdom
Sakura waits to bloom
for the right time**

*Kimiko Horne
Ontario, Canada*



**No cherry blossoms :(
The purple shiuunboku
fills the streets with joy !**

*Luis Miguel Martinez-Cervantes
Mexico*

**Long winter stop snow melts
Bird sat next Sakura awaiting buds bloom
Rain drops touch spring arrive**

*S. G.
Ontario, Canada*

**sakura bloom
migratory cranes
leading home**

Eufemia Griffio
Italy

**ants march
across the grass...
blossom not bombs**

*Melissa Dennison
United Kingdom*



桜 Sakura (Cherry Blossoms) - Fleeting Fragility

**frosted buds struggle
a victorious pink bloom
faded, yet fulfilled**

Tamiko Potts

**new blossoms
grandpa on the farm
buries placenta**

*Ibrahim Nureni
Nigeria*

**Spring makes all things new
Another chance to feel life
Blossoms breathe again**

*Amir TavallaieNejad
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

spring's morning sunlight
before cherry blossoms bloom —
slowly float downstream

Luc Earl Dochterman
California, United States



cherry blossoms —
people believe again
in a miracle

Mirela Duma
Romania

**early blossom
on the cherry's
sunward side**

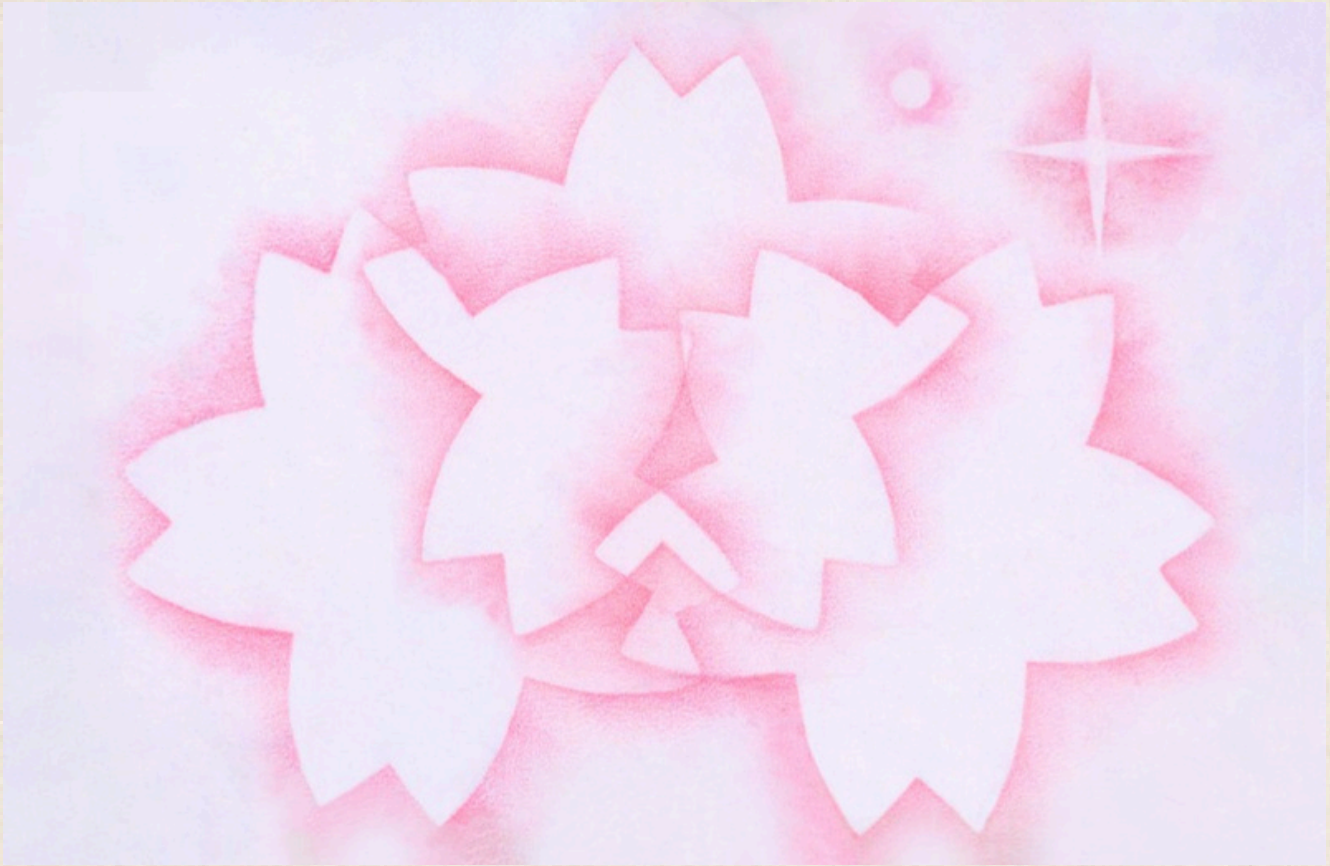
*Peter Draper
United Kingdom*

**cherry in bloom...
my mother's wrinkles
so smooth today**

*Nina Kovačić
Croatia*

**more layoffs
the cherry blossoms
about to open**

*Joshua St. Claire
Pennsylvania, United States*



**When all hope seems lost
and the season looks the same
a Sakura blooms**

*Mariel Pahayahay
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**cherry trees in bloom —
a lark flaps its wings
quickly**

Mauro Battini
Italy



shidare zakura
the tailor adds one more layer
to the waltz dress

Steliana Cristina Voicu
Romania



**Long ago
Where to plant roots
Wonder at bloom**

*A. K.
Canada*

**Snow melt and trickle
The warmth of spring breeze is felt
Sakura blossoms**

*Akira Michiko
Ontario, Canada*

開
花

Kaika

sun breaks through darkness
pink blossoms embraced in warmth—
longer days ahead

T. T.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



**Gentle pink blossoms
Your blooms wake our wintry hearts
T.O.! Spring is here!**

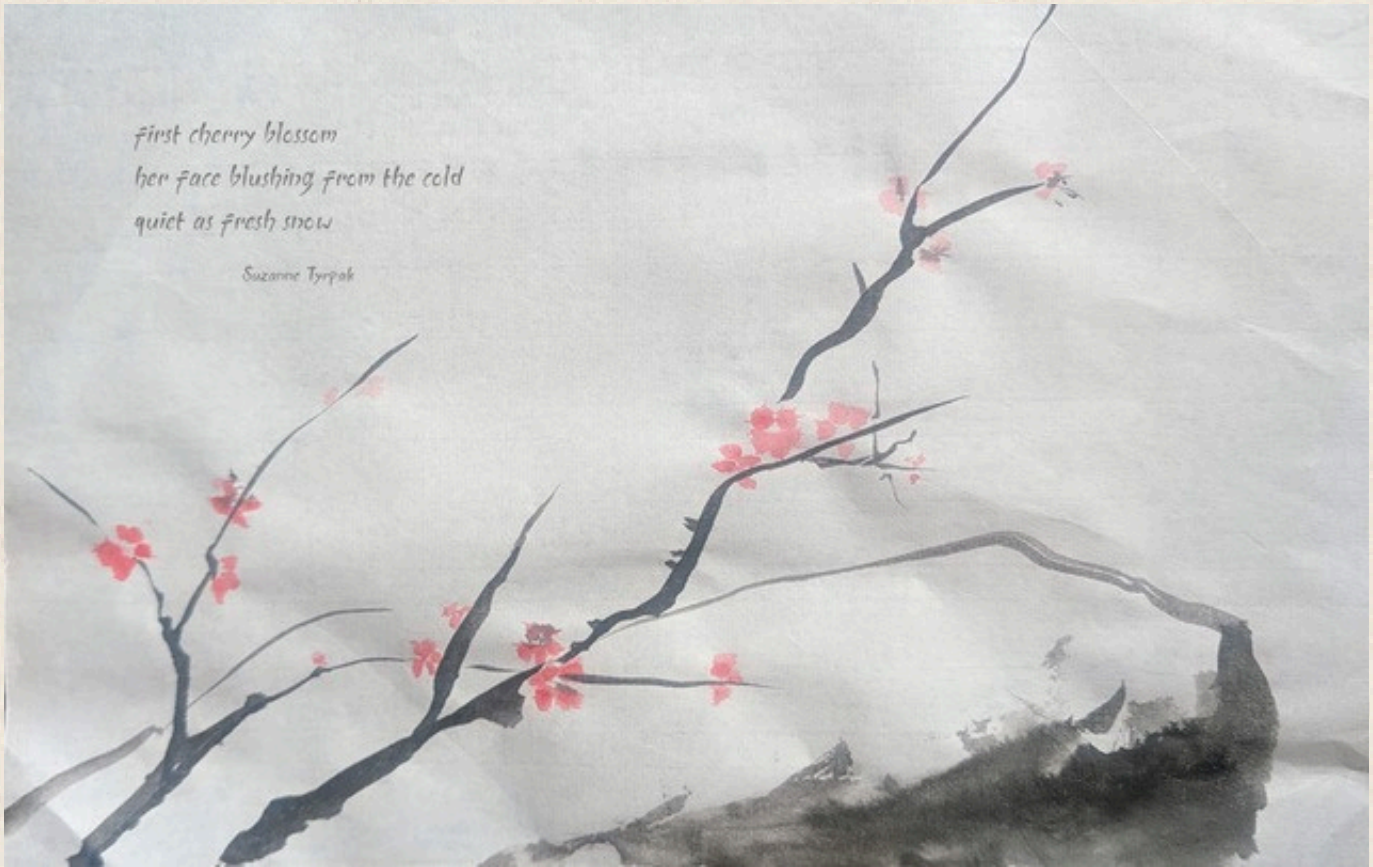
*Faith Wong
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**road trip...
the shimmying
sakura avenue**

*Marilyn Humbert
Australia*

*first cherry blossom
her face blushing from the cold
quiet as fresh snow*

Suzanne Tyrpak



**first cherry blossom
her face blushing from the cold
quiet as fresh snow**

*Suzanne Tyrpak
United States*

**breeze through the teahouse —
mixture of leaves
and sakura blossom**

*Herb Tate
Jersey*

**the cherry blossom
gives me reason to believe
in tenacity**

*Nancie Zivetz-Gertler
Oregon, United States*



*Elsje Maria Winnubst
New Zealand*

**sakura —
in a cone of penumbra
Mount Fuji**

*Frățilă Genovel-Florentin
Romania*

the last winter snow—
a cherry blossom dropped
on her first silver hair

Marjan Sabouri
Iran

sakura
our moment
in this world

Małgorzata Formanowska
Poland

cherry blossoms —
a lovers' bridge
on the horizon

Minko Tanev
Bulgaria

**Six petals melting
Five petals blooming softly
Spring mathematics**

*Danielle Hrapoonov
Ontario, Canada*



sipping sake
under the blooming cherry
late love

Nadejda Kostadinova
Bulgaria

Spring grows quietly
Petals pushing free
A haze of pink.

Laura Law
Scotland

**cherry blossoms —
the first pink
of a flamingo chick**

*Vaishnavi Ramaswamy
Tamil Nadu, India*

**Pink cherry blossoms bloom
The echoes of my wishes
Dust dancing on the paper**

*Rana Nafisah
Riau, Indonesia*

**We were a delicate
scent. Did it occur
before we blossomed**

*Meital Reuveny
California, United States*



**two ducks
at the river's edge
sakura**

*Alexander Halil
Ontario, Canada*

**Mount Fuji
thwarts the winds –
blossoming cherry**

*Vlasta Pirker
Croatia*



**Cherry blossoms are in bloom
My login password is
Promotion to the next grade.**

*Eiji Kashiwano
Japan*

the pond reviving —
on the Milky Way
cherry petals

Ioan Marta
Romania



While sakura blooms,
Rosa Persica bleeding.
Metal Eagle booms...

Li Ha Chopovinci
Hong Kong

**art exhibition
daughter's signature
on the river**

*Aparna Pathak
Haryana, India*

**spring meditation—
brimming my lap
sakura petals**

*Hifsa Ashraf
Pakistan*

**in a dense forest
of grey houses
a single cherry blossom**

*John Moran
Ireland*

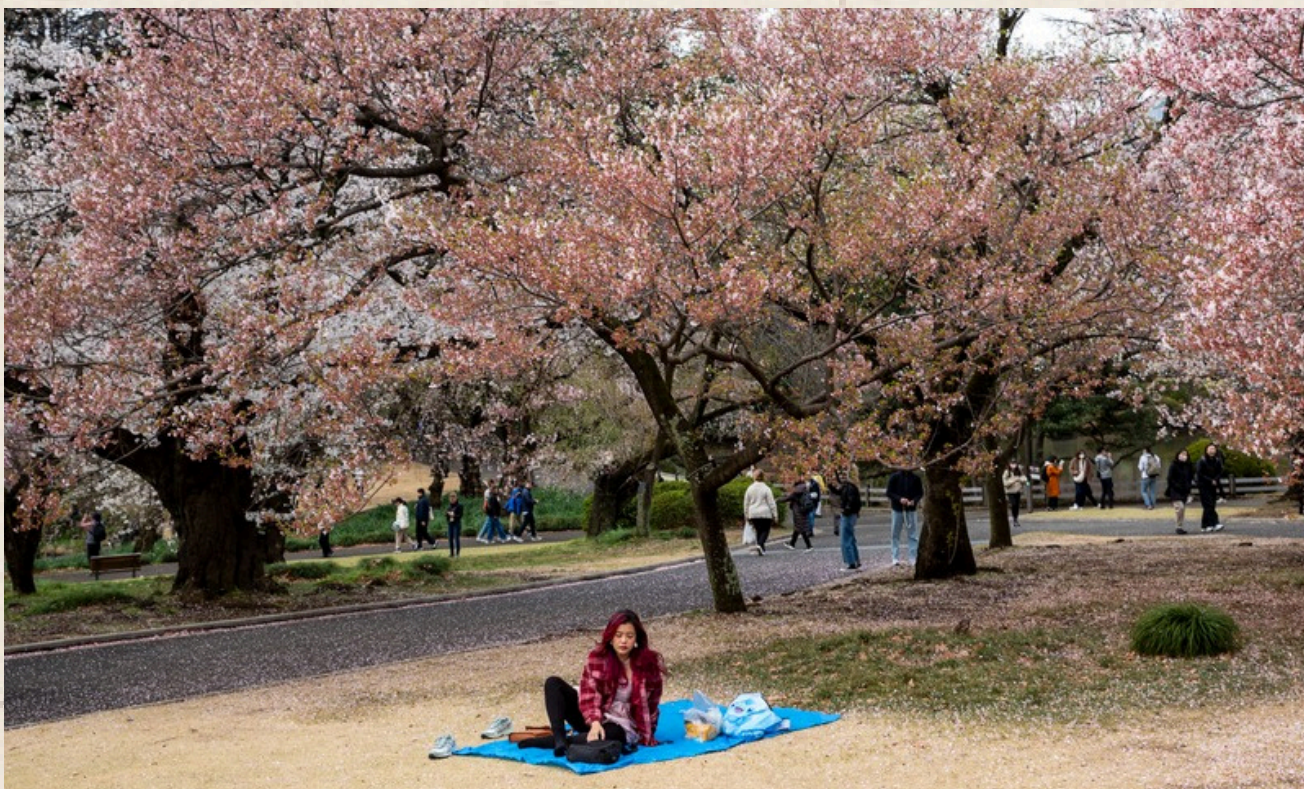


**Spring is here and now
vanilla scent in the air,
new hope for the soul**

*Miroslava Simeonova
Bulgaria*

under the cherry tree —
the digits of Pi roll
around my head

Refika Dedić
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Kanzan cherry tree
girls hair the color of
flowers**

*Željko Vojković
Croatia*

**a post-war orphan
sakura branch held with
the flowers down**

*Urszula Marciniak
Poland*

Life Blossoms

Life is long enough,
Spring blooms awake, give flower,
Fade and fall with grace

Frankie Dean
New Zealand



soft delicious scent
a fleeting burst of blooming
spring sakura, next

natural impermanence - ericalerica

ericalerica
Ontario, Canada

**cross-breeze
flowering sakura
scent the baby's room**

*Barrie Levine
Massachusetts, United States*

along the Potomac
sakura blossoms
promise hope



Tai Bickhard
Pennsylvania, United States



Sakura whispers

Innocence beholds,
untamed beauty slowly breathes
where silence teaches.

Victor Hugo Suarez
Québec, Canada

sakura petals—
shy together, two pinks
folded into lips

Allen David Simon
West Bengal, India

**pleasing the senses
each mindful step
preparing cherry blossom tea**

*Diana Davison
Australia*

**cherry blossom
the lightness of his voice
when he speaks to me**

*Marie Derley
Belgium*

**a silvery night
yoshino cherry tree's hands
sift scented moonlight**

*Kajol Mhatre
India*

**cherry blossoms
afloat on Chantilly lace
the bride's veil**

*Maxianne Berger
Québec, Canada*

**morning headlines—
despite it all
cherry blossoms**

*Helen Ogden
United States*

**Five-petalled beauty
Iconic symbol of spring
Her name? Sakura**

*Pam Marjerrison
Canada*

**first blossom
her tiny hand reaching
for my finger**

*Anju Kishore
India*

**springtide delights of
tiny floral offerings
presented to all**

*Kimberly T
Ontario, Canada*

**first love
two white kites tangled
in a Kanzan tree**

*Susan Burch
United States*



**Cyanotype buds
loosened from their stems—
which way will I go? Left.**

*Jennifer Harrison
Australia*

**oh lucky bee
cherry blossom nectar
and flowers so pretty**

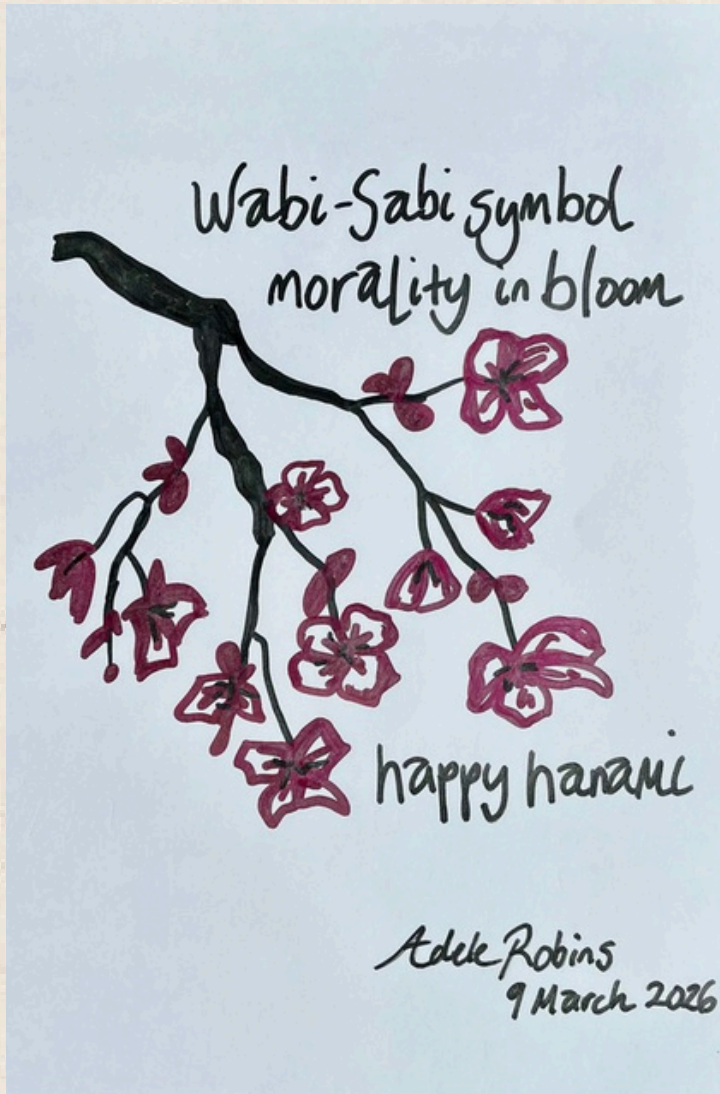
*Simon Hanson
Australia*

**Five pink petals blush
as spring's warmth coaxes dewdrops
to test gravity.**

*Sandy Usami
Ontario, Canada*

**cherry blossoms
between sips of tea
birdsong**

Chen-ou Liu
Ontario, Canada



Wabi-Sabi symbol
morality in bloom
happy hanami

Adele Robins
New Zealand

someone's planting
cherry trees on my street...
pink ones blooming now

Ed Bremson
United States

**during the night
scattered in tall grass
famous cherry blossoms**

*Gary Hotham
Maryland, United States*

You are playing with me,
With your peeking whites and pinks
Through the spring showers.

*Diane Poloczek
Ontario, Canada*

snowy silent sush
cradled roots, branches, and trunk;
sweet soft sighs — here, now.

Carmela Co
Ontario, Canada

**the top of the slop
where watching cherry blossoms
from the wheelchair**

*Zoltan Pachnik
Hungary*

sakura

**in a breath of breeze —
the baby's chuckle**

*Gwen Bitti
Australia*

**cherry blossoms
in the girl's hair
pink flowers**

*Zoran Doderovic
Serbia*

**Cherries blossom whet
In the blue sky morning dew
Smell not fugacious**

*Raju Vallikunnam
Kerala, India*

**A gaudy bullfinch
Roosting among spring blossom
Cherries for breakfast**

*Simon Christopher Williams
United Kingdom*



Cherry Blossoms

After You

Monica Olvera Olmos #1 (2026)

**After you, old meanings are diluted by the valley's course,
now, new thoughts are arising and are being sharpened up by Cherry blossoms
as though they were spades that are now blooming against the air.**

*Monica "Momo" Olvera Olmos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**no cherry
why is red sorrow
the child asks**

*Guliz Mutlu
Turkey*

smiling in a way
I'd nearly forgotten
—cherry blossoms

Goran Gatalica
Croatia



Soft petals open
Against a pale grey, blue sky
Spring's arrival shining through

Katryn Dougherty
Iowa, United States

**cabin privy . . .
this is no place for you,
cherry blossoms**

*Julie Schwerin
United States*



pink cherry blossoms

borrowing their color from

sun up and sun down

@KellyWesthoffWrites

Kelly Westhoff
Minnesota, United States

**flower viewing
under the cherry tree —
will you marry me!**

*Paul Callus
Malta*



mcb

**sakura . . .
my spring lethargy
melts away**

*Mihovila Ceperic-Biljan
Croatia*

**cherry petals blossom
a spring pink breeze of poetry
floats onto the page**

*Brigitta Simpson
South Africa*

**Sleepy babes of grass
peep from under the duvet—
sakura alights**

*Chandrakant Kaluram Mhatre
India*

**spring fling
all day gathering
cherry blossoms**

*Joy Hallinan
Georgia, United States*

**Hark! Come—hear the birds!
See the cherry blossoms bloom!
Spring has come at last.**

*E. A. LaBelle
Ontario, Canada*

cherry blossom—
this weight is lifted
as I see you

Steven Croft
United Kingdom



first cherry blossoms—
girls in bright kimonos
posing with iPhones

*Pauline Ruth O'Carolan
Australia*

Cherry blossoms bloom —
spirits rise and rise;
spending climbs and climbs.

Takanori Hikiji
Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto

he slides on her wrist corsage
under the cherry blossoms
school dance

Sari Grandstaff
New York, United States

**Pink flowers in bloom
Enjoy the blossoms today
Sakura are here**

*Anonymous
Canada*

dew drops—
scent of cherry blossoms
from the bottle

Aakanksha Tanwar
India

**Sakura blossoms
my neighbor is putting on
pink lipstick**

*Françoise Maurice
France*

**cherry blossom
the opening of a silk blouse
button by button**

*Mark Andrew Heathcote
United Kingdom*

cherry tree blooms—
bees haiku on a renga
among pink clouds

Mariam Roshan Zachariah
India

the Sakura blossomed,
like a girl
draws the eye

Lilia Racheva
Bulgaria

満
開

Mankai



**Spring comes
With mountain breeze
Sweetened by wet cherry petals**

*Champa Damayanthi Ambepitiya
Sri Lanka*

**When cultures combine,
Sakura and Maple leaves,
become — one story...**

*H. L. Balcomb
Colorado, United States*

**cherry blossom
in wet cement
paw prints**

*Beth Skala
British Columbia, Canada*



hanami
each blossom holding
a piece of dawn

Marion Clarke
Northern Ireland

peak of pink . . .
stirring the senses
sakura sencha

Monica Kakkar
India / United States

**Sakura in rain
its thin petals not meant for pain
under restless skies**

*Aaliyah El-Amin
United States*

**daydreaming
into the next realm
cherry blossom**

*Alan Summers
Wiltshire, England*

**Hey !
my granddaughter's smile
watching cherry blossoms**

*Jean-Hughes Chevvy
France*

**strawberry moon
cherry blossoms
in plum condition**

*Bonnie J Scherer
United States*

**capitulation
a cherry tree branch in bloom
over the barbed wire**

*Mirela Brailean
Romania*

hanami with grandson—
blossoms in the old
cherry trees

Milan Rajkumar
India

waves of fragrances
envelop us from the orchard —
cherry tree in bloom

Vasile Moldovan
Romania

Sakura petals,
Matcha bittersweet on tongue,
Fuji-san silent—

Tshombe Sekou
Tennessee, United States



**cherry blossoms –
looking in his eyes
for one last smile**

Nicoletta Ignatti

Italy



**full moon blossom
shines with frost
don't wait for fruit**

*Heather Stark
Québec, Canada*

**spring brides' confetti
sakura blooms covers
war memorial**

*Emma Lee
United Kingdom*



**blush gathers
crowds under cold sun
after papa**

A. B.

Ontario, Canada

**the old couple
stares at cherry blossoms
stares at each other**

*Pravat Kumar Padhy
Odisha, India*

**Time softens with light
Spring paints horizon
Sakura blossoms**

*Kuma Raj Subedi
Australia*

**Sakura shower filling the air
a lone child gathers pink petals
for those at home and ill.**

*Namita Bose
West Bengal, India*

walking hand in hand
with sakura in her pink gown
nest building

James Young
Wales

**long-term expat
living under the cherry blossoms
dreams of first house**

*Ernesto Santiago
The Philippines*

**cherry blossoms —
our words
take color**

*Dan C. Iulian
Romania*

**toddler squealing —
fists full
of petals**

*Patricia Haddock
California, United States*

**countless faces
so it is
with cherry blossom**

*Joy Heath
United Kingdom*

**She walks her own path
Strength I once held in small hands
Now lighting the world**

*Mark Bennett
Ontario, Canada*

**a tree alley
her white kimono and
blossoming cherries**

*Zlata Bogovic
Croatia*



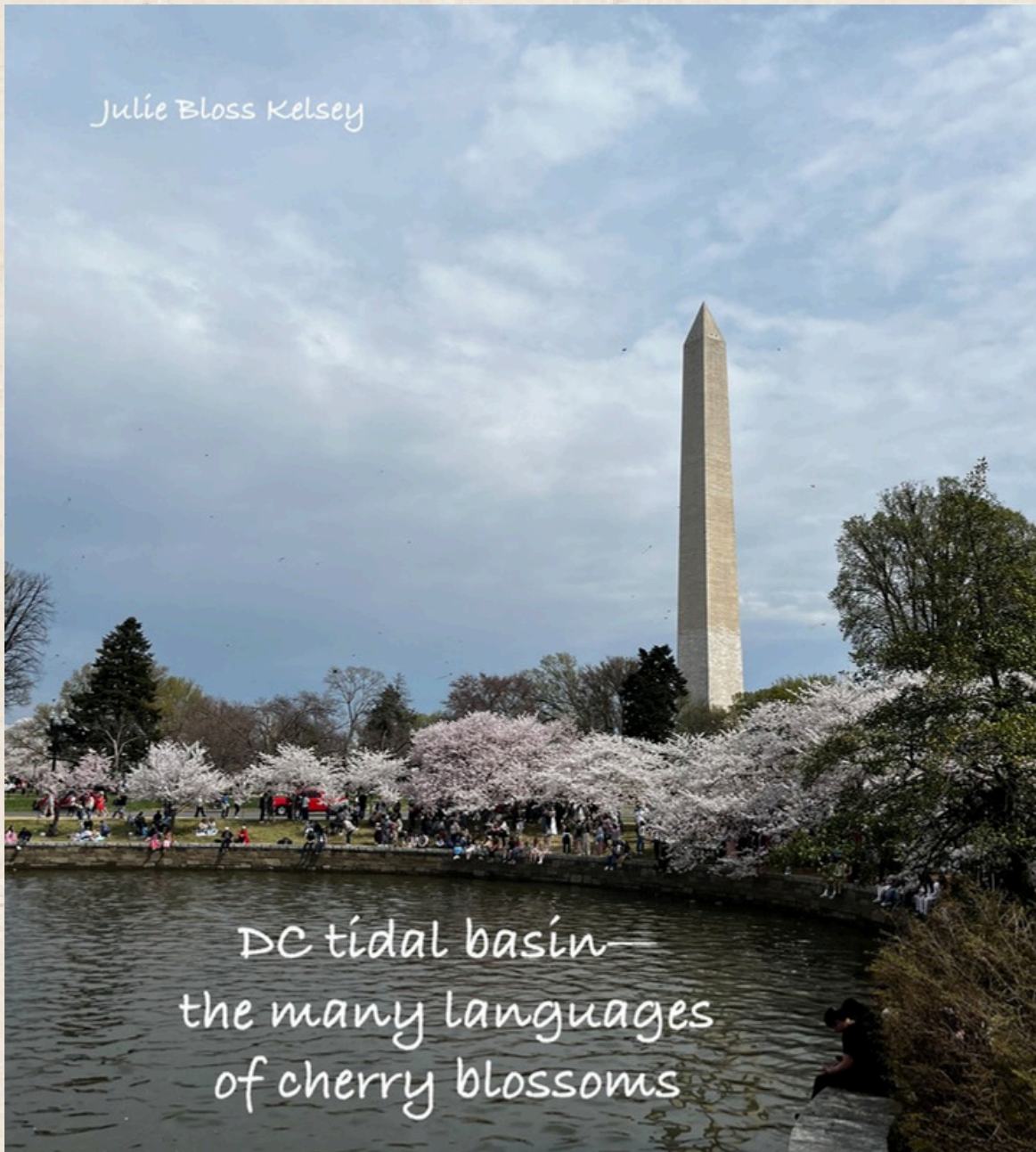
cherry blossoms—
a breath of pink
along the river

Giuliana Ravaglia
Italy

**In a foreign land
Not lost but expected soon
Prunus blossoms fall**

*Richard
United Kingdom*

Julie Bloss Kelsey



DC tidal basin—
the many languages
of cherry blossoms

Julie Bloss Kelsey
United States

**in full bloom
under a clear sky
wanderer's dream**

*Angelo B. Ancheta
The Philippines*



Spring cherry blossom
her footsteps closely next to mine
holds the world steady

Kimberley Ngu

Toronto, Ontario, Canada / Malaysia



that time again ...
laugh and smile
as petals pink the blue

Ann Rawson
Scotland

under sakura tree
a wedding ring
in the pocket

Jacek Margolak
Poland



**sour cherry blossoms
looking just as beautiful
as the sweet ones do**

*Dana Clark-Millar
United States*

**strawberry jam
on her white dress
cherry blossom**

*Jessica Swafford
United States*



**Soft petals falling
Slowly dancing in the breeze
Smile spring is here**

*Christina Wakim
Nova Scotia, Canada*

**She waited alone
In the hope that he would come
For cherry blossoms**

*Sudarsana Sarkar
India*

**a walk in the park
pink petals so similar
to their blushes**

*Oliwia Zarzycka
Poland*

**High Park parking woes
warmer weather melted snows
May may be arriving**

*Alexis Stefanovich-Thomson
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*



Along the Humber
Petals drift and gather—
spring comes to the city.

T. O.

Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto

**sakura shade
the baby's hand reaches out
from the pram**

*Minal Sarosh
Gujarat, India*

**cherry blossoms —
the bright yellow
of a dandelion**

*Luce Pelletier
Québec, Canada*

Youthful Blooming

Pink, like a women's
blushing cheeks, her petals fall
on my loving face

Fiona Hartmann
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**We gathered together
Under the blossoming cherry trees
It happens less and less often**

*Krendikov Ivan Ihorovych
Ukraine*

**on the ring finger
two cherry blossoms
romantic hearts**

*Laurence Cenedese
France*

**sakura evening —
unfurling a blanket
on the picnic ground**

*Anthony Q. Rabang
The Philippines*

**blossom rain
in my dream
we could fly**

*Stephen Toft
United Kingdom*

**in the family tree
no long-lived ancestors
cherry blossom**

*Ivan Georgiev
Germany*

**sunshower...
clouds of cherry blossoms
hang over my head**

*Benjamin Bläsi
Switzerland*

**hanami
sakura briefly gathers
the world**

*Vishal Prabhu
India*

on warm temple steps
children chase sparrows
through cherry shadows

Kim Martins
New Zealand

**outdoors pizza party!
Sudden gust and we enjoy
free Sakura toppings!**

*Raj K. Bose
Hawaii, United States*

**filling the graveyard
so many cherry blossoms
only for a day**

*Nick O'Connor
Australia*



**hanami party —
God still spreading
blessings**

*Cezar Ciobica Sr.
Romania*



**Pink petals abound
Sakura open skyward
High Park moseying**

*Stephanie Shena
Ontario, Canada*



Sweet taste of spring at Robarts
Is it the sakura - bower of pink and white?
Maybe it's the dango

Mary Hynes
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

night cherry—
five-petaled blossoms
afloat in lantern light

Thomas Smith
Texas, United States

**swirls of pink
on a silk kimono . . .
sakura festival**

*Valentina Ranaldi-Adams
Ohio, United States*



Spring blushing blossoms
Swaying in the gentle breeze
Sweet fragrance lingers

Boriana Vasileva
Ontario, Canada

**noon —
a kite
among cherry blossoms**

*Florin Golban
Romania*

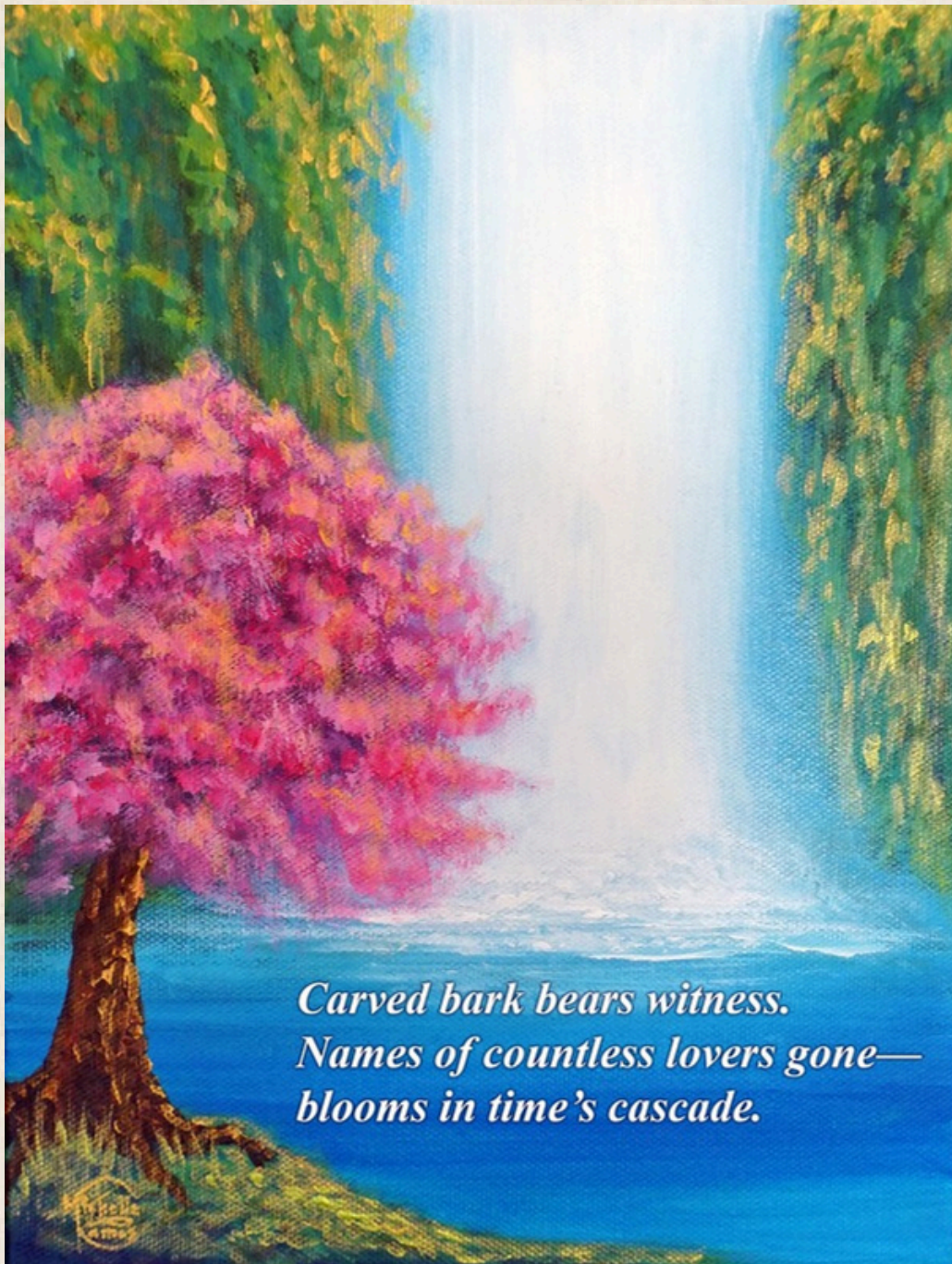
**dawn stroll
pink-logged road lined
with sakura**

*Bipasha Majumder
West Bengal, India*

**gust of wind . . .
I lose myself
in cherry petals**

*Daniela Misso
Italy*





*Carved bark bears witness.
Names of countless lovers gone—
blooms in time's cascade.*

*Michelle Chermaine Ramos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**tender blossom-wave
picnics under the trees
on pink blankets**

*Mary Burgess
United Kingdom*

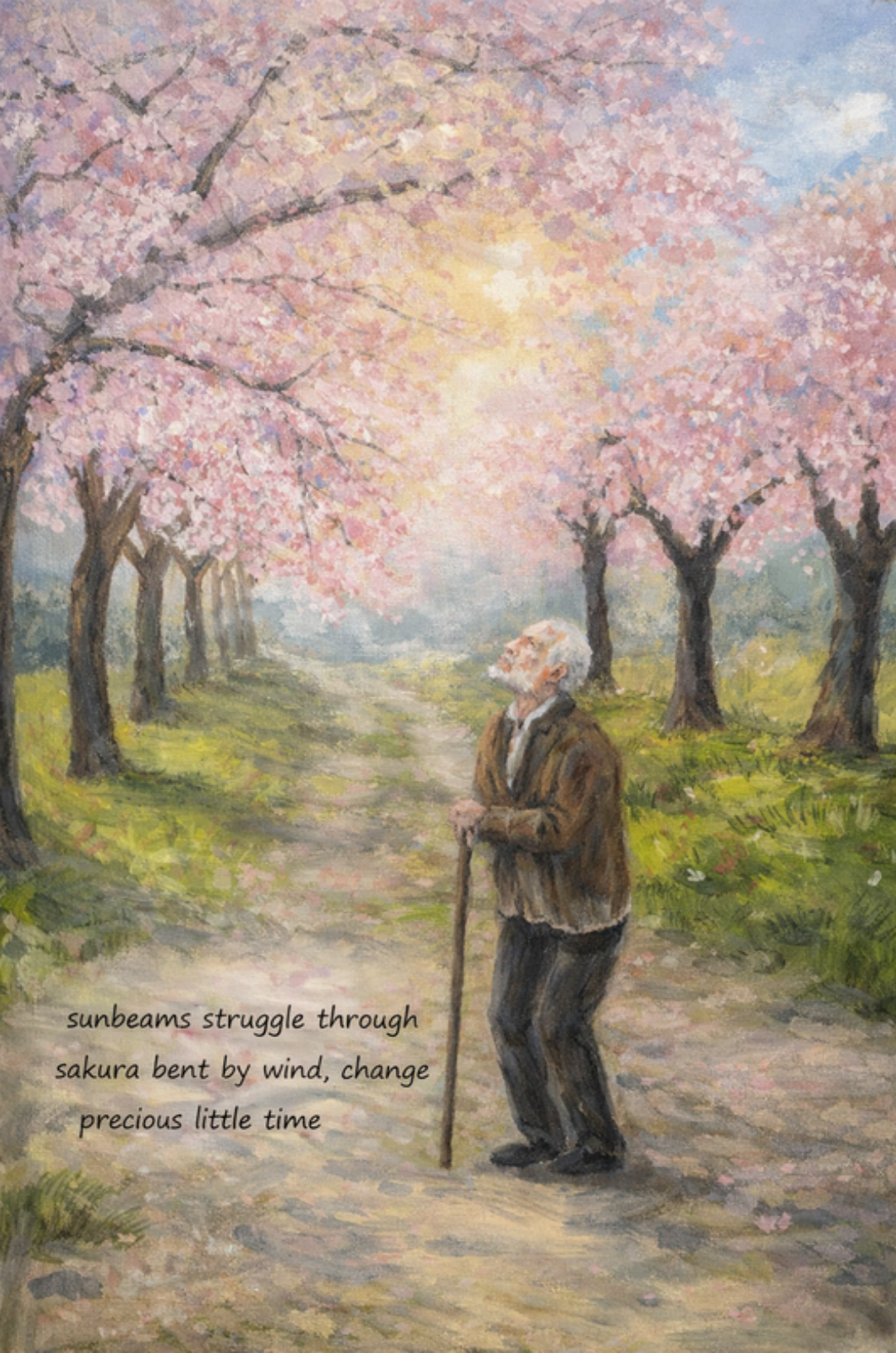


**the cherry blossoms -
pink color connects in the world
and timeless beauty**

*Noriko Morishita
Japan*

**meteor shower
in spring the cherry blossoms
falling at night**

*Sam Calhoun
Alabama, United States*



sunbeams struggle through
sakura bent by wind, change
precious little time

*Haiku by Ulli MacDougall
Artwork by Shelly MacDougall
Ontario, Canada*



**Oblong pink petals
bloom for romantic descent,
Encountered by chance**

*Susan Z
Ontario, Canada*

same birds are singing
this time the trees answer them
pink cherry blossoms

Suzanne Beaumont
North Carolina, United States

**midweek blossoms
they're everywhere
Sunday drivers**

*LeRoy Gorman
Ontario, Canada*

**birds and blossoms
in a tall, tall tree —
loaded pink jukebox**

*Darrell Lindsey
United States*



*benefit concert
we share a blanket
of sakura petals*



words/collage © DJ Strange



**benefit concert
we share a blanket
of sakura petals**

*Debbie Strange
Manitoba, Canada*

upturned sakuras
the street
strewn with blossoms

Sabrina Li
New Zealand

**The smell of fresh air
Pink blossoms ever fleeting
A perfect spring day**

*Ella Purvis
Canada*

**sunny day
cherry blossom
clouds**

*Louise Carson
Québec, Canada*

picnic
cherry petals falling
into my soda

Agnieszka Filipek
Ireland

rain of lego bricks
shapes up into sakura
surprise on moon's face



Anna Nike Leskowsky
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**wafting Sakura petals
on her full flared pink skirt
'hanami' party**

*Subhashini Jayatilake
Australia*

cherry blossom petals
bury the blind beggar
asleep on a park bench

Leo Lavery
Northern Ireland

桜
吹
雪

Sakura Fubuki

young at heart
a cherry blossom caught
in my grey hair

Jahnavi Gogoi
Ontario, Canada

**White rain fell.
The sky woke up.
The cherry tree sang.**

*Kristina Milcheva Toteva
Bulgaria*



street cafe—
pink petals
on the menu

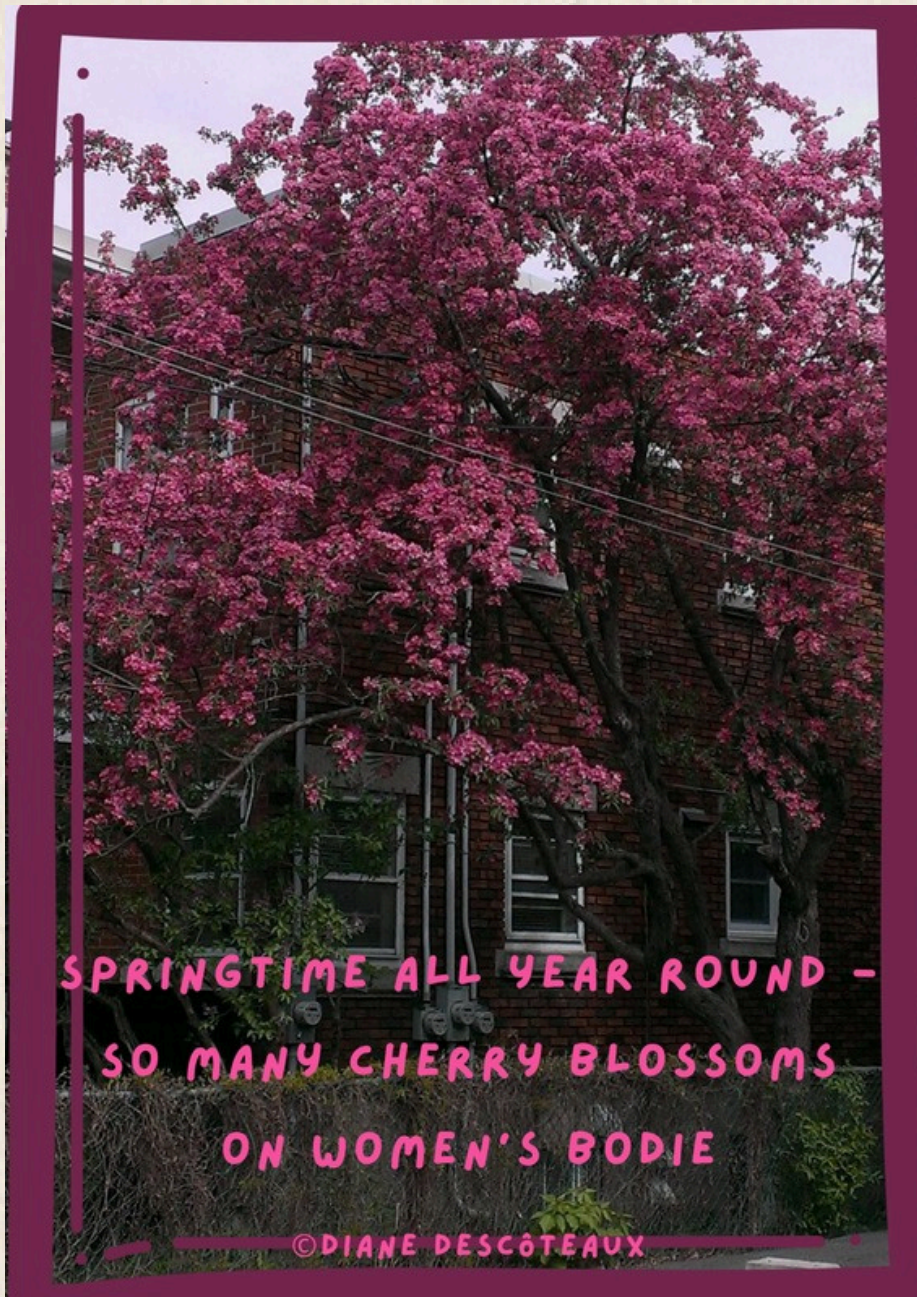
Tony Williams
Scotland

**camera flashes
atop the umbrella
fallen pink petals**

*Tuyet Van Do
Australia*

cherry blossoms—
I'm waiting in a pink cloud
but there is no one

Katica Badovinac
Croatia



*Diane Descoteaux
Québec, Canada*

Late spring afternoon
Smell of Sakura blossoms
From my painted hand fan.

Chingangbam Anupama
Manipur, India

**cherry blossoms
one more year
just the pictures**

*Biswajit Mishra
Alberta, Canada*

**bombs rain down
petals fall
in my heart**

*Vanessa Hope
United Kingdom*

playful gusts of wind
pink petals drop on our bench
wave after wave

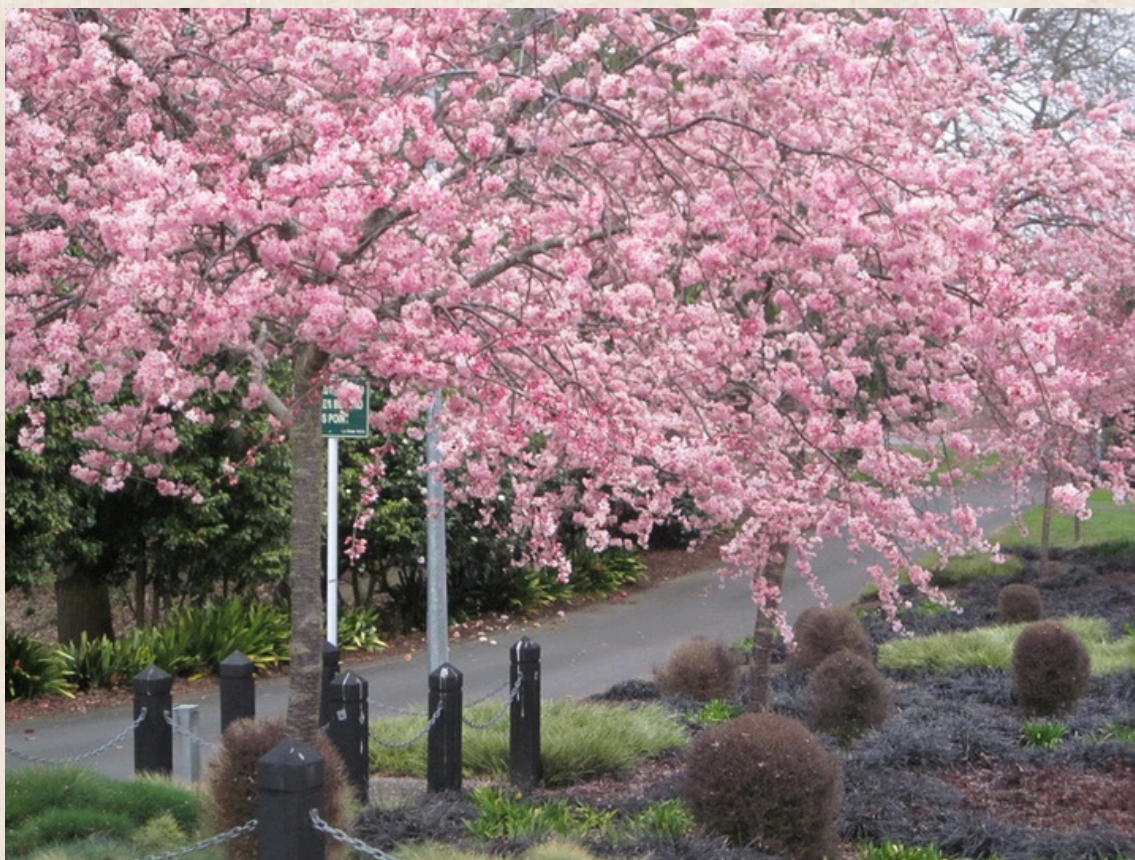
Mona Jordan
Romania

spring winds drifting by
scatter dreams of cherry blooms
a week dyed in pink

Amin Jacek Pędziwiater
Poland

**static time —
cherry blossoms
painting the wind**

*Michela De Martino
Italy*



cherry blossom —
my dreams drift away
to another place

Anne Louise Curran
New Zealand

warm gleaming spring day
new frosting on pink-tinged trees
swirl of petal snow

Ka Hathor
England

people in throngs
stroll High Park's blossoming slopes
drifting petals

Marshall Hryciuk
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

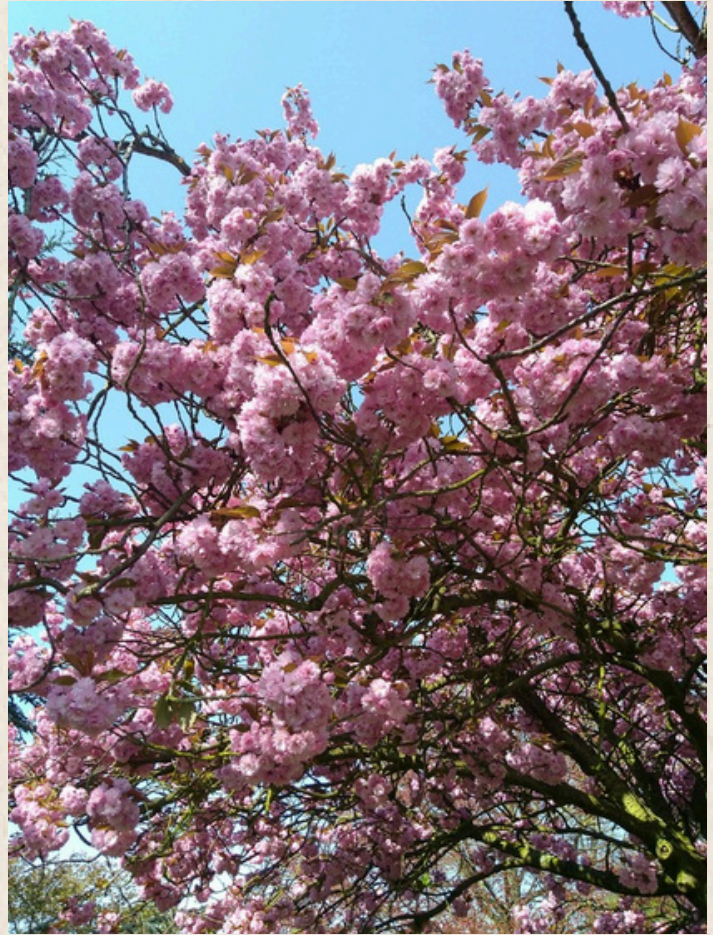


**Fleeting pink blessings
Exhilarate the senses
Still my beating heart**

*Emma Major
United Kingdom*

**in a dark closet
full of coats
cherry blossom petals**

*Cheryl Ashley
British Columbia, Canada*



**On my childhood street
Spring weight of cherry blossom
Soon to fade indoors**

*Margaret Morrison
United Kingdom*

**hanami —
our silence scatters
petals of words**

*Danijela Grbelja
Croatia*



Rupa Anand
New Delhi, India

**emerald butter
languorous moss awaits
falling sakura**

*Angela Campbell
New Zealand*

cherry petals
on the asphalt parking lot—
frogs louder now

Richard Tice
Washington, United States



**temple bell —
cherry blossoms drift
with the sound**

*Neena Singh
India*

**one more lap
around the lake —
falling blossoms**

*Tomislav Maretic
Croatia*

**a week of rain
potholes filling
with cherry blossoms**

*Margaret Chula
Oregon, United States*

**twin toddlers
chasing cherry blossom petals
with the gentle breeze**

*Hideyuki Yazaki
Japan*

**at the forest edge —
cherry blossom petals
under hooves**

Gordana Vlašić
Croatia

**a spider struggles
to keep its web together
rain on sakura**

*Grey Coyote
British Columbia, Canada*

**My fleeting life —
like a cherry blossom,
immortalized on your pink lips...**

Caelvian Vale
Turkey

**a soft sneeze . . .
off a tiny palm
pink rain**

*Nitu Yumnam
United Arab Emirates*

**petals adrift —
the face of the earth
pinkening**

*Samantha Pardo Irigoyen
Washington, United States*



**blossom on the grass
your dear fingerprints will stay
over every spring**

*Lyndsey Knight
New Zealand*

**her chosen spot
beneath the cherry trees...
pink-splashed ashes**

*Tracy Davidson
United Kingdom*

**cherry blossoms
on my eyelashes
Love's first kiss**

*Margie Gustafson
United States*

**cherry petals —
wind carries them
from the other shore**

Stoianka Boianova
Bulgaria

**broom tossed aside—
children frolic among
airborne blossoms**

*Carole MacRury
Washington, United States*

**snowstorm
she picks just one petal
out of my handful**

*Lanka Siriwardana
Sri Lanka*

**falling sakura
my daughter shows me
her piroutte**

*Billy Antonio
Pangasinan, The Philippines*

Sakura

Sakura falling,
morning dew on the wet grass,
now spring has begun.

Ellis Kundarewich
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Cherry blossoms
flutter through my hair
pink butterflies

Jessica Whitehead
New Zealand

soft cherry petal
tells me to savour the now
falls before I blink

Agnieszka Pedziwiater
Italy



**Blushing embers drift
A sweeping pastel dreamscape
Springtime of my youth**

*Anthony V
Ontario, Canada*

**pink confetti
melting
into dewy green**

*Robin Michelle White
Georgia, United States*

**outdoor café —
the morning news
sprinkled with cherry blossoms**

*Elehna de Sousa
British Columbia, Canada*



Petals from a bough
Glide on breeze's embrace to
Join their brides below

Valerie Limmer
Ontario, Canada

**showering
cherry blossoms . . .
a furled umbrella**

*Barbara Anna Gaiardoni
Italy*



falling petals —
in my dreams I put
them back together

Irina-Ana Drobot
Romania

spring breezes
the pink stream
of fallen blossoms

Scott Wiggerman
New Mexico, United States

death anniversary
a sakura blossom
in my hand

Christina Sng
Singapore



**Blossoms in the wind —
pink petals grounded softly,
a gift to treasure.**

*Shawna Raven
Ontario, Canada*

**a whiteout
per chance seeing
cherry blossoms**

*Pamela Garry
Connecticut, United States*

a day without rain
how the cherry blossoms
f l o a t

susan spooner
British Columbia, Canada

spring light ...
the shrine-steps widen
with fallen sakura

sanjuktaa asopa
India

**after the reading...
a cherry blossom petal
on the heel of his shoe**

*Maeve O'Sullivan
Dublin, Ireland*



Scattered sakura,
delineating spaces
of the in-between.

By Karen Sekikawa

Karen Sekikawa
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

spring breeze
a petal raft
touches the clouds

Katherine E Winnick
United Kingdom

**a carpet
of cherry petals
to walk or not**

*Ravi Kiran
India*

cherry blossoms fall
around grandpa— glad to have
all of his own teeth

Caroline LeBlanc
New Mexico, United States

**pink petals float down...
small thoughts grow into bright hope —
Big Dreams Soar Like Spring!**

*Ezra Labitoria Mabunga
Ontario, Canada*

**heart pendant
submerging sakura
in an ocean**

Sheikha A.

Pakistan / United Arab Emirates

proclaiming thrush
from a cherry tree
pink petal rain

Ben Oliver
England



sakura wind
a brushstroke
taking wing

nalini

Nalini Shetty
India

276

cherry buds awake
spring takes its breath
petals in water ballet

Ramya Attanayake
Sri Lanka

Love

**Cherry blossoms fall,
Tenderly kissing the Earth,
Heaven's fragrant tears**

*Paul Ashford
United Kingdom*

**Petals floating by
The season of Sakura
Passes quickly too**

*M. A.
Ontario, Canada*

spring rain
falling
cherry blossoms

Barbara Grueger
Yukon, Canada



**Drizzle mizzle mist
Delight in dancing cherries
Shimmer memories**

*Charis Pang
Toronto, Ontario, Canada*

**On Yoshino River
trout no longer rise
for falling petals**

*Rick Beven
United Kingdom*

peace offerings—
cherry blossoms
into the wind

Fatma Zohra Habis
Algeria

**nature's soothing —
war victim's foot
on fallen petals**

Radhika De Silva
Sri Lanka

**cherry blossoms fall
without overthinking it
thinking about you**

*wendel
Mexico*

**even here today
sakura flower carpet
paving the white way**

*Udara Thambapanni Dikkumbura
Sri Lanka*

**the cherry blossoms
how easy they let go with
or without the wind**

Jesús Santos
Texas, United States



*falling one by one
into Sumidagawa
sakura*

*Mark Meyer
Washington, United States*

clouds of sakura,
branches barely hold them down—
petals float away

John Richard Stephens
Hawaii, United States

after the quake
students shovel silt—
cherry blossom

Barbara Strang
New Zealand

soft spring clouds
caught in the wind—
cherry blossoms

Kevin Irigoyen Penatello
Washington, United States



**Snow melts, not fast enough
Mother nature's pink sprinkles
Gone with a wind gust**

*Elle Bee Lam
Canada*

**cherry petals —
the view at the window
never the same**

*Elena Zouain
France*

**spring breeze
butterflies chase the wind-borne
sakura petals**

*Padmasiri Jayathilaka
Sri Lanka*

**cherry blossoms
soundless footsteps
along the path**

*Nazarena Rampini
Italy*

A pink butterfly
in the shimmering sunlight...
sakura showers

Keith A. Simmonds
France



Flushed pinks make their way
Tumbling through the open fields
Old friends meet again

Hana Terada
Canada



The delicate fall
Of a pink cherry blossom
In my bowl of tea

Flora Evans
Ontario, Canada

WEEPING SAKURA

we huff—our snow weeps:
petite glassy marbles bead
onto a moss glaze

Pham Nittlegin (Carruweal)
New Jersey, USA

**pink petals
falling one by one —
a bird does not leave**

*Urszula Winiarska
Poland*

**Blossoms are fleeting
Weeping a sanguine snowstorm
Sakura cascade**

*Natalie Burton
Ohio, United States*

**falling sakura
orphans playing
musical chairs**

*Alvin B. Cruz
The Philippines*

**Crawling from buildings
chasing blown petals; the heralds
announcing spring air**

*Alana Libell
United Kingdom*

f a l l i n g...
on scarred earth
cherry petals

Arvinder Kaur
India

mind halts —
a sakura petal,
drifting in the breeze

Grace Mag Aodh
New Zealand

**dancers on the breeze
cherry petals
and a butterfly**

*Greg Skala
British Columbia, Canada*

**cherry blossom
fading in the river
dawn**

*Edward Cody Huddleston
Georgia, United States*

**on a spring wind
wild blossom drifts far
beyond palace petals**

*Marc Hyder
England*

**alone with myself
for the wise men and the fools
last cherry blossoms**

*Mariola Grabowska
Poland*

**Sakura petal—
Is floating the shadow cloud
of a black ant**

Claudine Baissière
France

**resting
on the butcher's doormat . . .
cherry blossom petals**

*Nicholas Klacsanzky
Washington, United States*

**Sweet memories of friends lost
Days surrounded by music
Cicadas, laughter, and blossoms falling.**

*Larisa Stori
Ontario, Canada*

Awaiting her lord
By the mount Kaguyama
The empress weeps
With the falling blossoms
Does she understand
He cannot return?

Camilla Fortune
Ireland



sakura
light snowfall at dawn
mantling peace

Michael Shoemaker
United States

**Pink petal fizz.
Nature's lift softly scattered.
Drink effervescence.**

*Sheri Knauth
Maryland, United States*

**cherry blossom —
wind steal an instant of beauty**

*Andrea De Pasquale
Italy*

**front page news —
the first sakura petal
kamikaze for peace**

Andrei Gradinaru
Romania

Cherry blossoms
fall into the pond
impassive carp

Pascal Pozzo di Borgo
France



Light pink soft petals
Gently floating in the breeze
By the river, ease

IG
Ontario, Canada

**after divorce
a cherry petal falls
on her lip**

*Anica Marcelic
Croatia*



**a bench in the park —
covered in cherry petals
a homeless woman**

Annette Akkerman
Netherlands

321

**blossom drifting
into dusk
the silent shadows**

*John Hawkhead
United Kingdom*

**My cherry blossom
Will bloom
Next March**

*Nilmini Siriwardane
Sri Lanka*

**last petal drops
cherry tree weeping
no longer**

*Stephen J. DeGuire
California, United States*



where the cherry tree once stood
a bird comes singing for a while
and soon flies away

Eiko Masubuchi

Japan

**I bid Sakura party farewell!
carrying memories in my heart
and petals in my hair!**

*Stephanie Visaya Bose
Hawaii, United States*

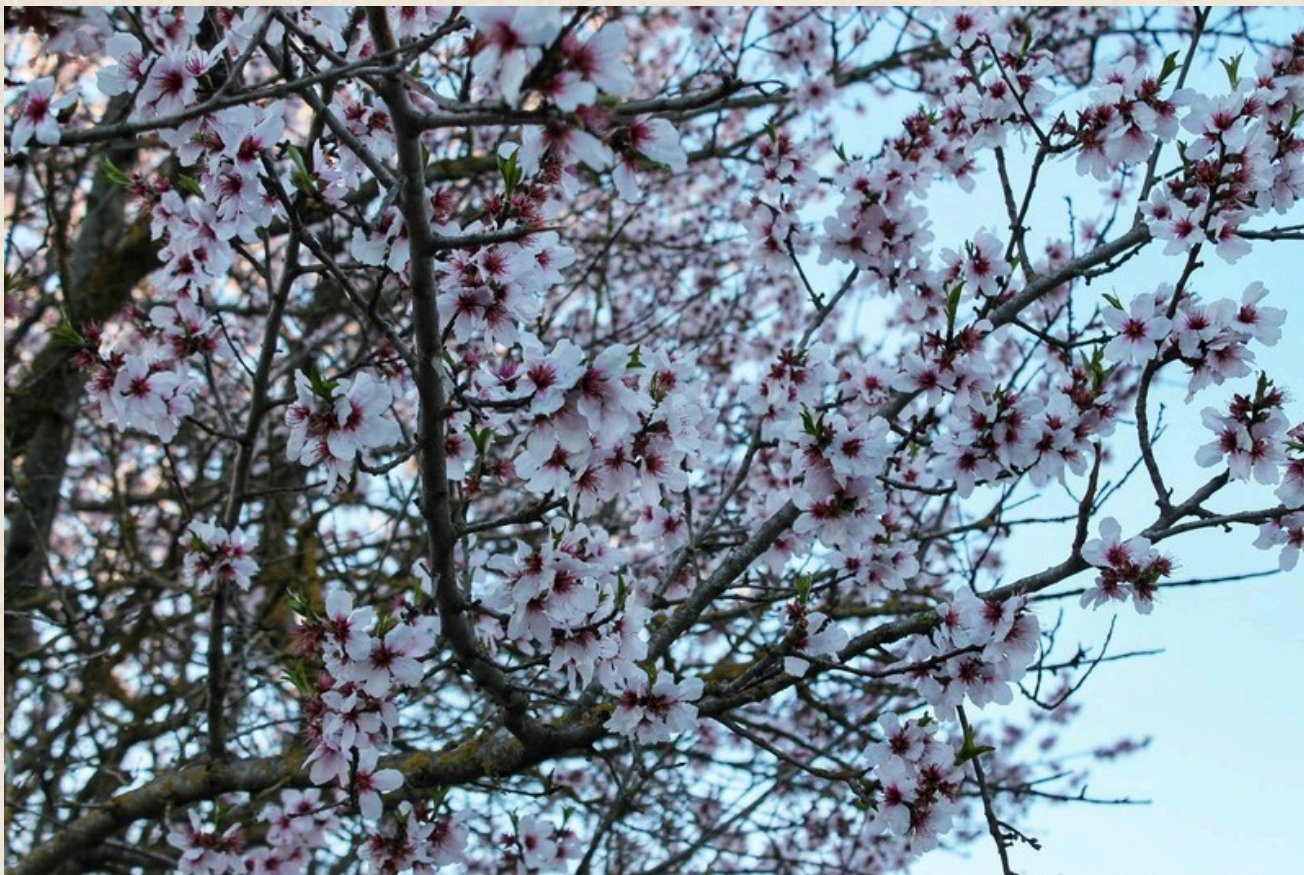


**Hanafubuki —
the silence of petals
blends with the gong.**

*Jean-Marie Sautrelle
Québec, Canada*

**last breath
in the wind
sakura petals**

*Anne-Marie Labelle
Québec, Canada*



**hanafubuki —
on a cat's curious eyes
one more spring passes**

Maria Tosti

Italy

**Too late
For cherry blossoms.
Memories in bloom**

Simone Chiatante
Italy

wind-shaken blossoms —
the old gardener mutters
« so many good byes »

Angèle Lux
Québec, Canada

**only a few petals left
of the cherry blossoms
first butterfly**

*Philomene Kocher
Ontario, Canada*

Special Highlights

Croatia Primary School Students

**public garden
sakura petals adorning
the blue linen**

*Dora Dipic
Croatia*

**a breath of morning
sakura threw on its
pinkish cloak**

*Rita Blazic
Croatia*

**blossoming cherry
a lady beetle chills out
on its petal**

*Meri Lenac
Croatia*

testophobia . . .
a cherry petal settles
on my paper

Tara Vidosevic
Croatia

**sunshiny day . . .
a lone sakura slackens
my steps**

*Vana Bogicevic
Croatia*

**the sunset
the breeze seesawing
cherry's petals**

*Mara Paskvan
Croatia*

Marvin Heights Public School

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



Cherries are coming
The blossoms are blooming bright
Bright colours are here

Artha Onelle Delpetchithra,
Ontario



Rayon Dhaliwal
Ontario

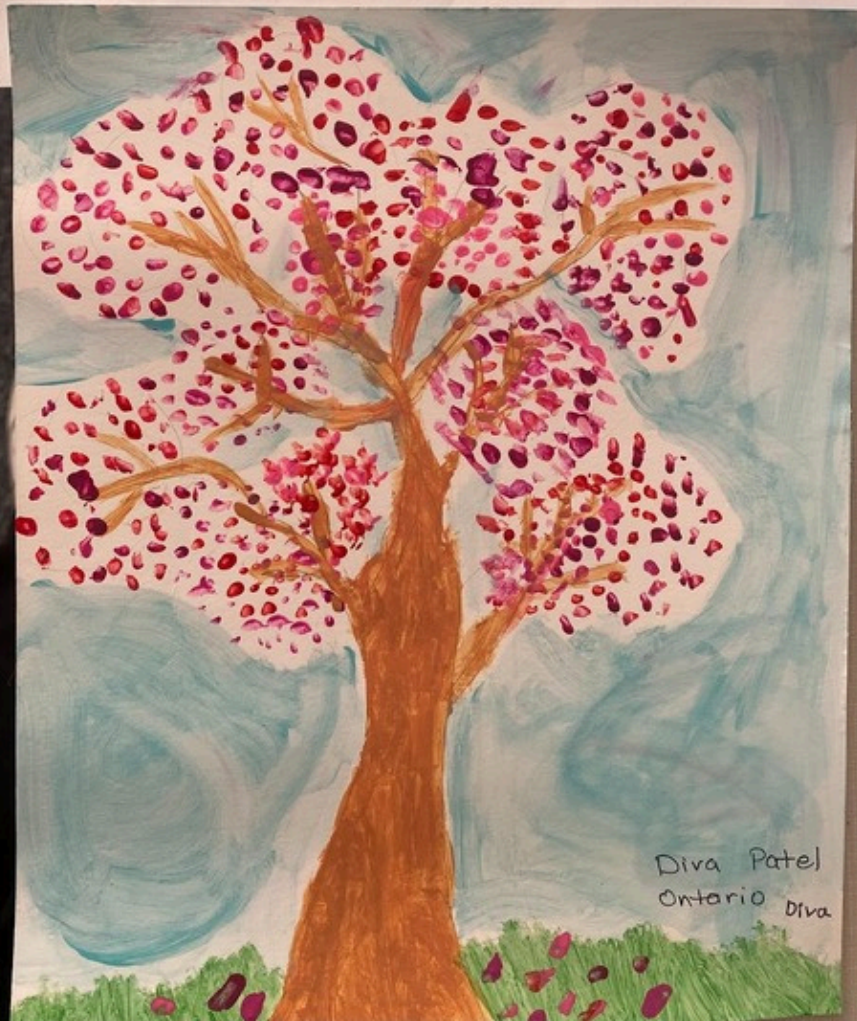
Diva

Diva Patel,
Ontario

Spring is coming soon. (5)

Things are growing up in Spring. (7)

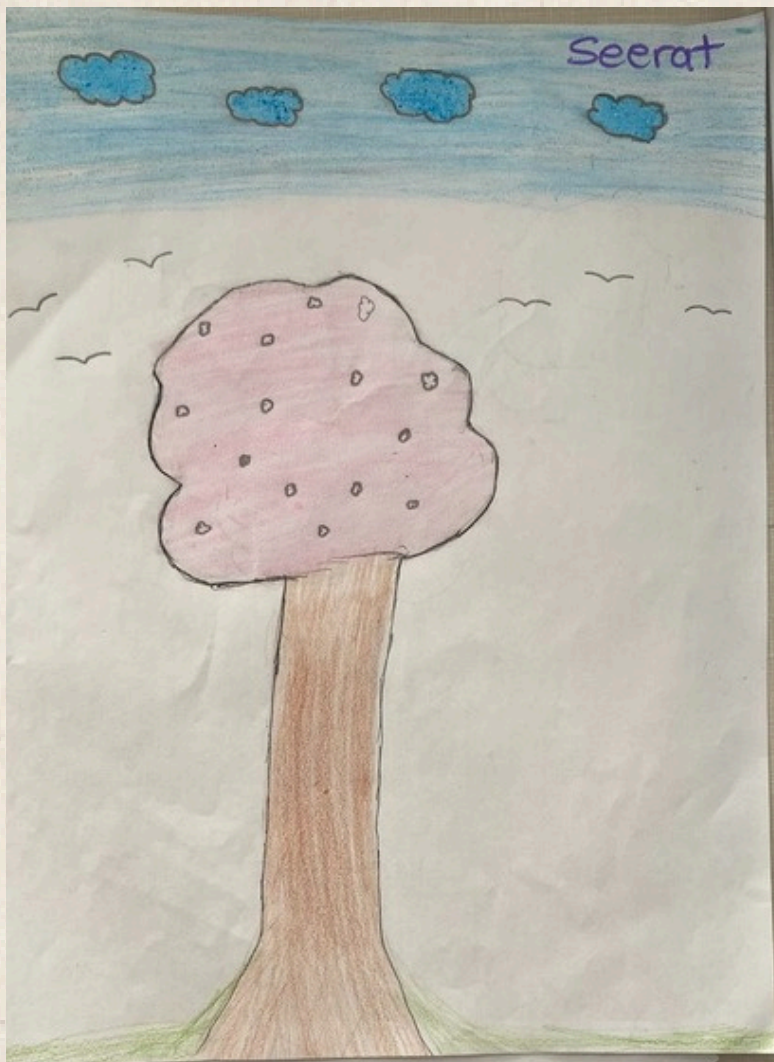
Spring is beautiful. (5)





Flowers grow in spring.
Cherry blossoms grow in spring
It rains in spring

Sargun kaur Lidder,
Ontario



Spring is coming back!

) It is going to be hot.

) Its gonna be fun!

Seerat Sandhu, Ontario

Cherry blossom is fun

Spring has lots of different colours

Blossom is all pink

Dilnaaz kaur, Ontario

Umair

Blossom is so pink.

Sakura leaves are so pink

Blossom trees are nice.

Umair Shaikh, Ontario

Spring has so much leafs!
Cherry blossom is so nice!
I love Spring so much



Japmanjot Keur
Ontario





Hasan Patel
Ontario



flowers are blooming
pink, beautiful, majestic
they are here, then gone

Emad



pink cherry blossoms
the blossoms are beautiful
they stay for ten days

Enzo

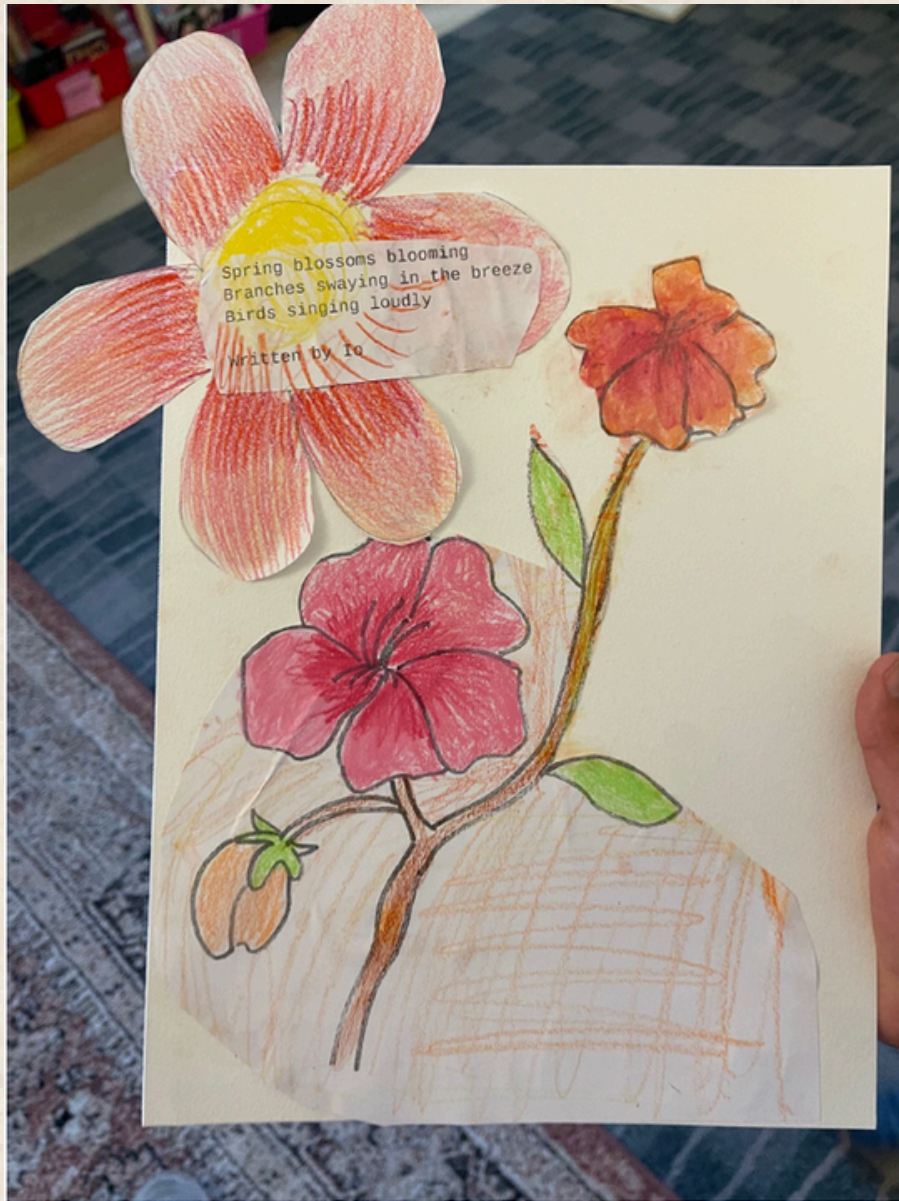


light, bright pink flowers
Sakura trees in Japan
beautiful petals

Yahya

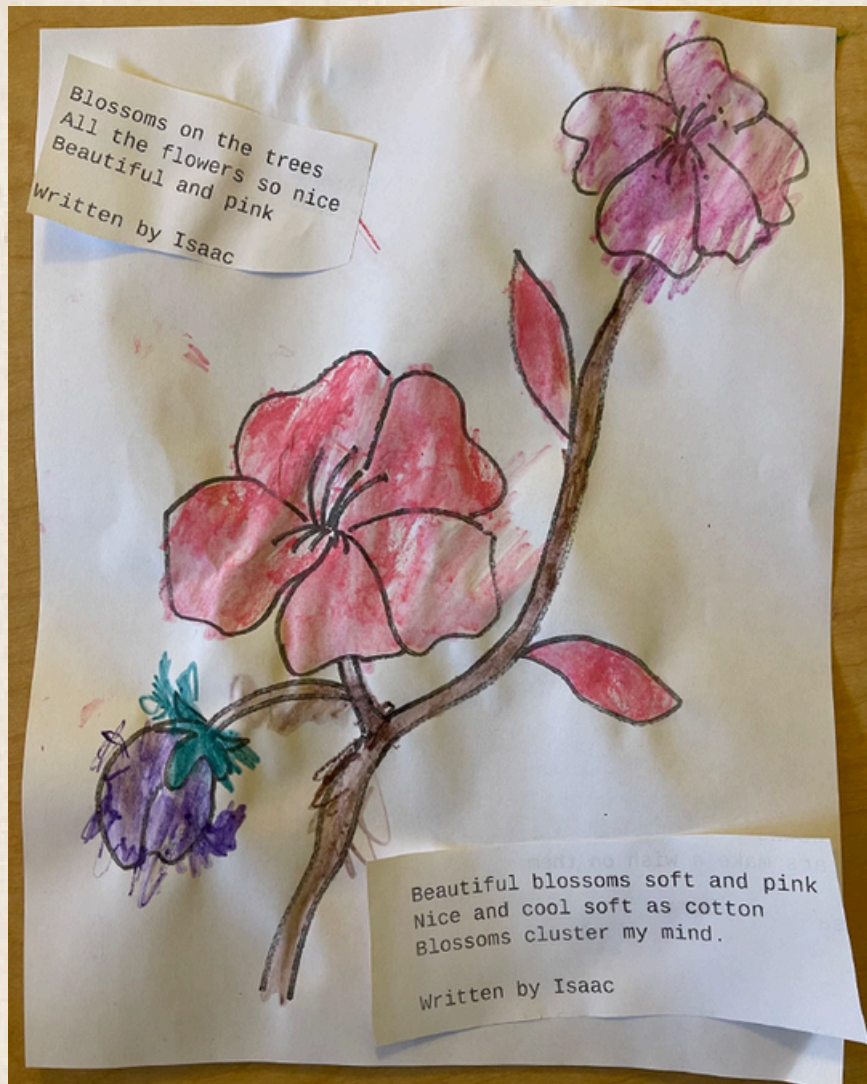
Tamarack West Outdoor School

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



**Spring blossoms blooming
Branches swaying in the breeze
Birds singing loudly**

Io



**Blossoms on the trees
All the flowers so nice
Beautiful and pink**

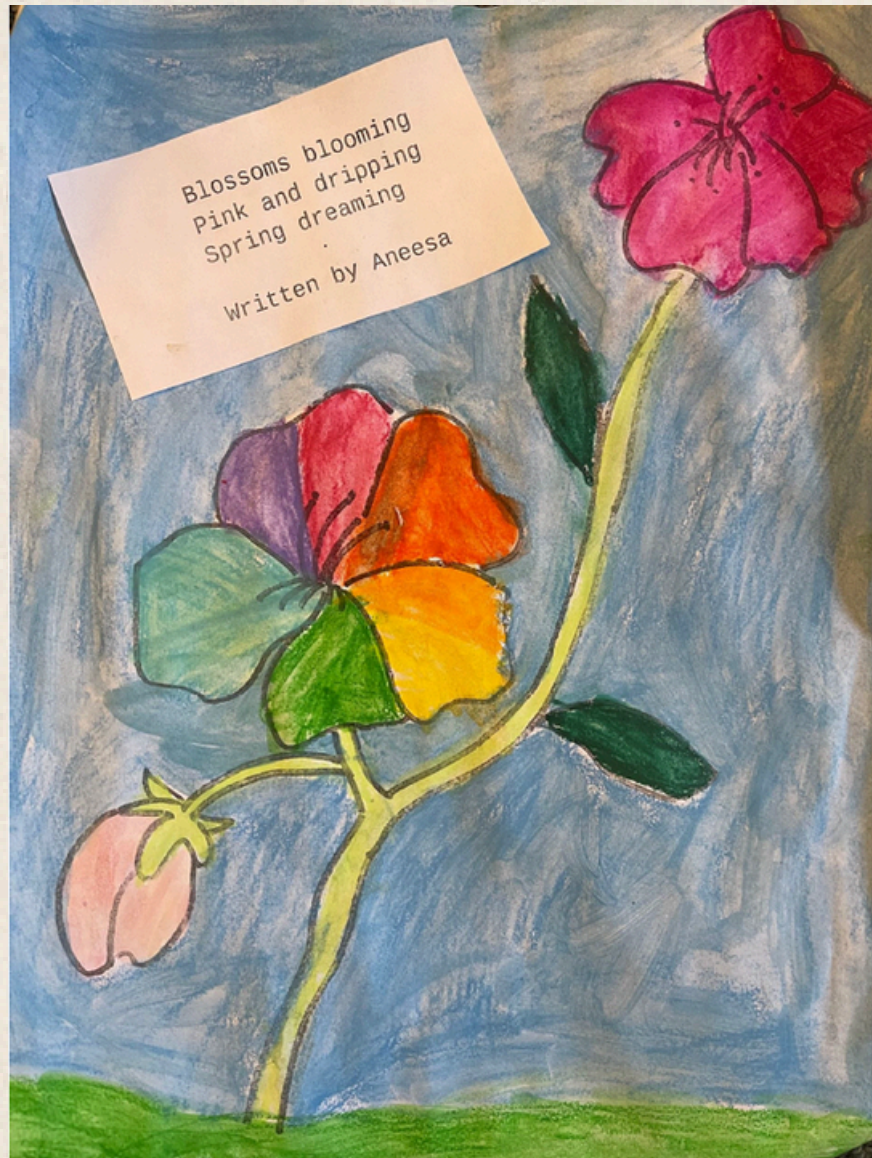
**Beautiful blossoms soft and pink
Nice and cool soft as cotton
Blossoms cluster my mind**

Isaac



**As soft clouds roam the sky
It will be blooming away
On one sunny day**

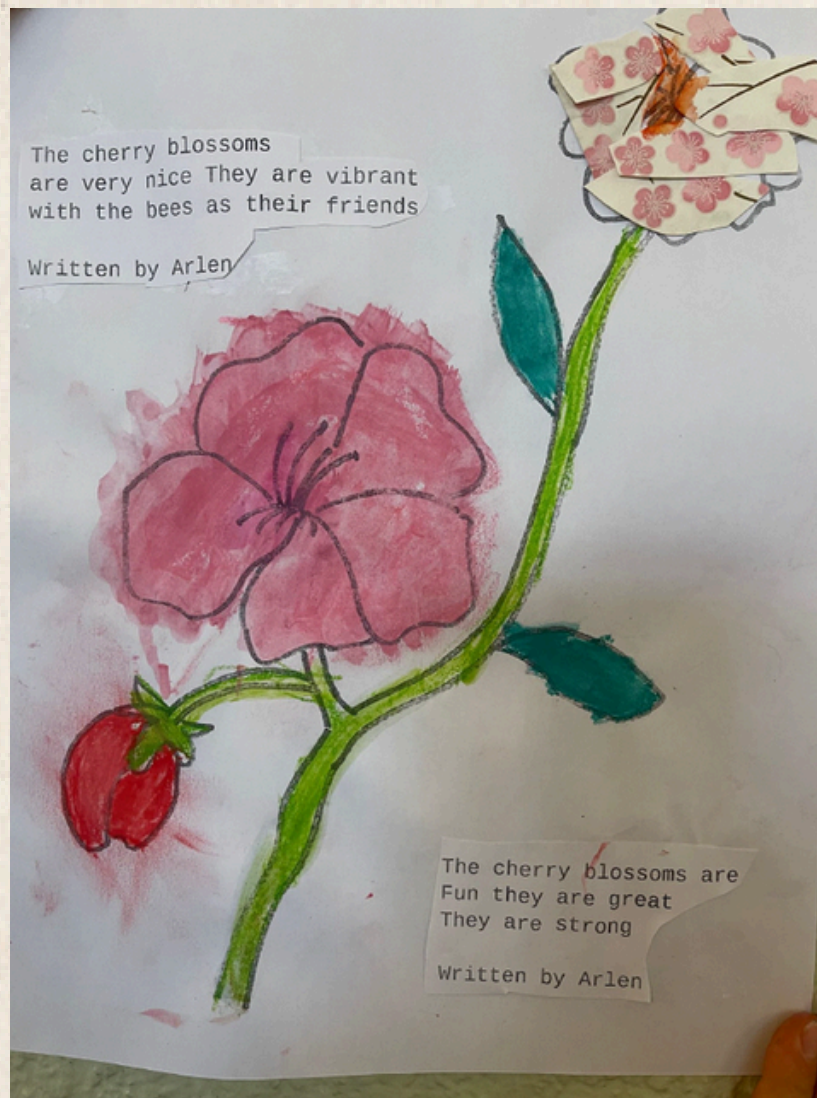
Sam R.



Blossoms blooming
Pink and dripping
Spring dreaming
Written by Aneesa

**Blossoms blooming
Pink and dripping
Spring dreaming**

Aneesa

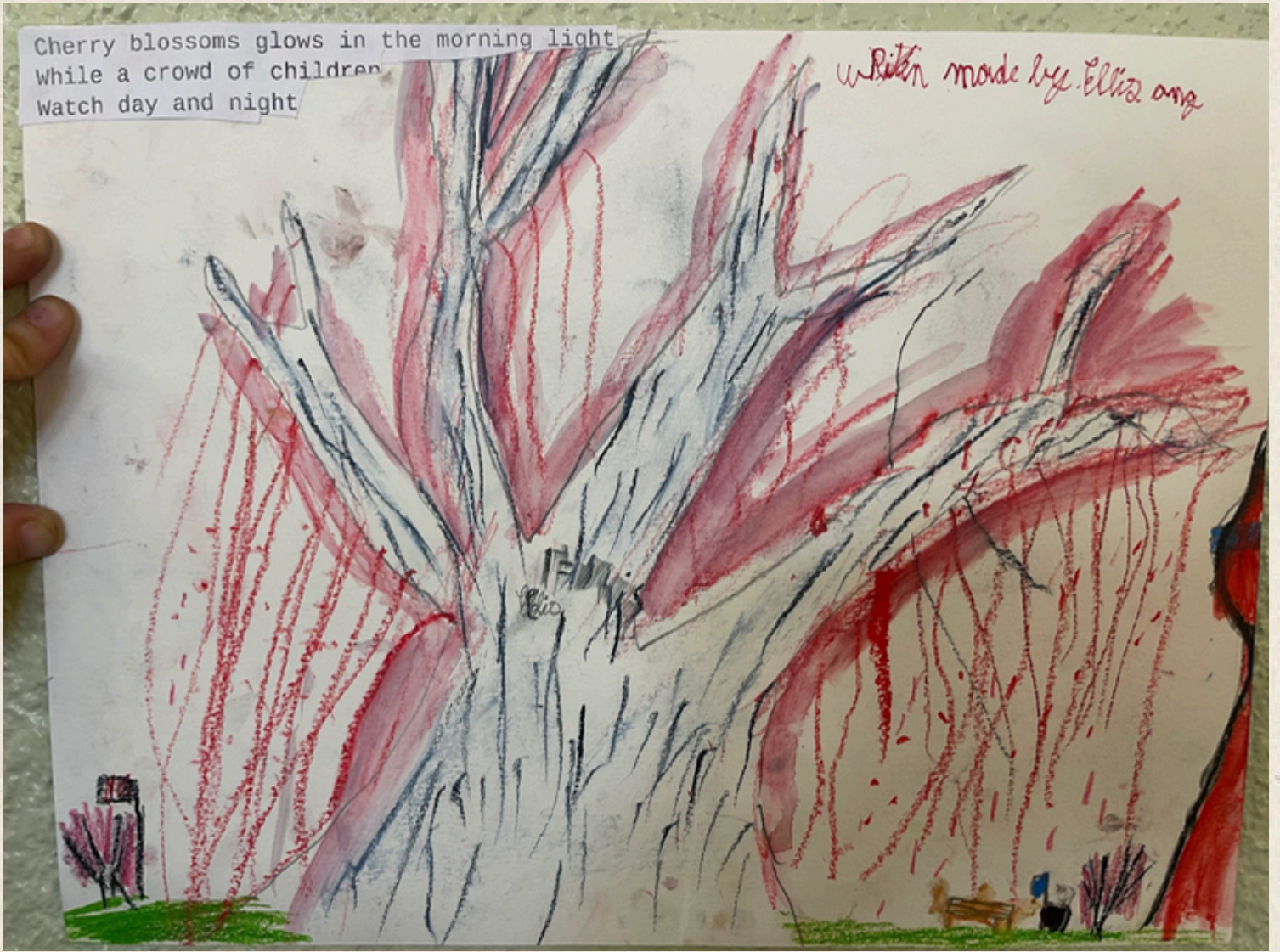


**The cherry blossoms
are very nice They are vibrant
with the bees as their friends**

**The cherry blossoms are
Fun they are great
They are strong**

Cherry blossoms glow in the morning light
While a crowd of children
Watch day and night

written made by Ellis ong



Cherry blossoms glow in the morning light
While a crowd of children
Watch day and night

A spring breeze is blowing
The birds are chirping
The sky is pink, yellow and red
I'm watching the sky beside the old cherry tree.

Written by Freya

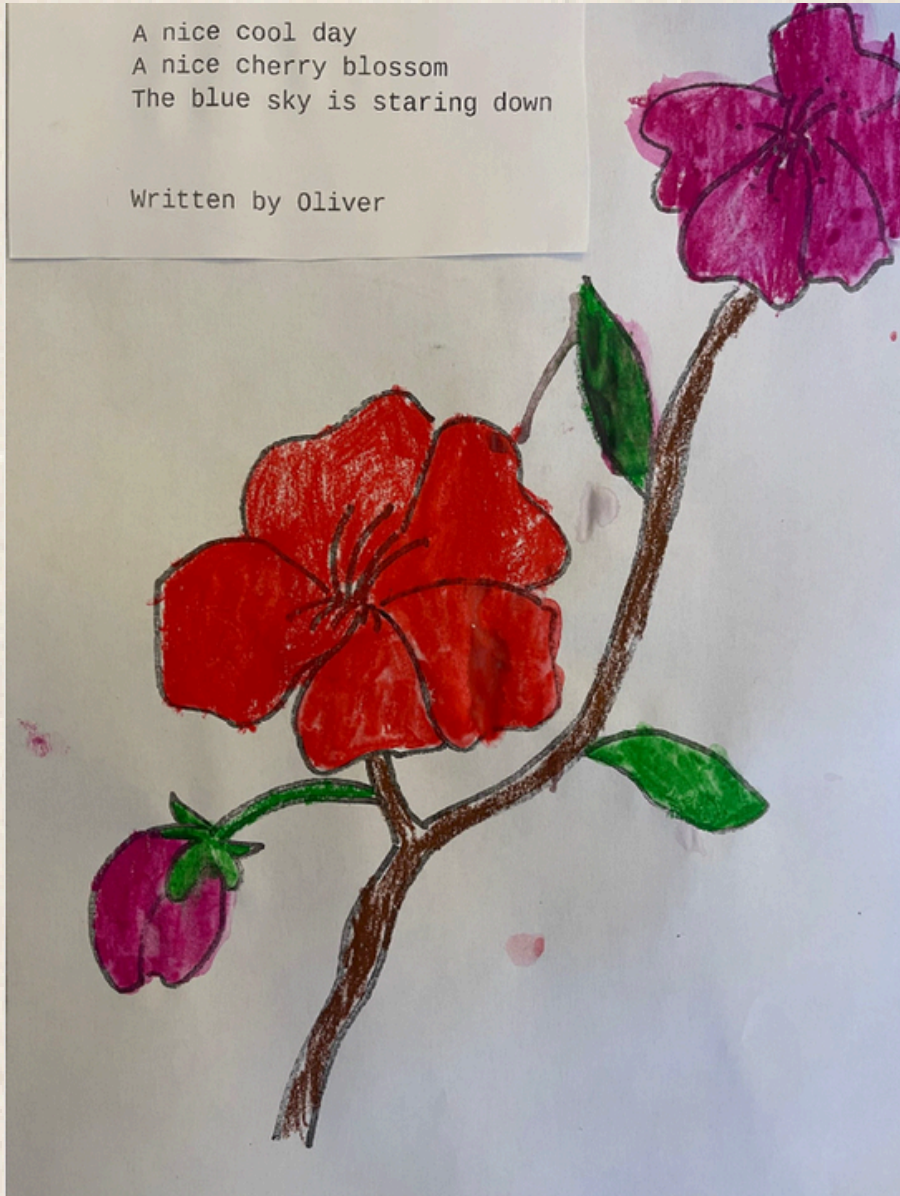


**A spring breeze is blowing
The birds are chirping
The sky is pink, yellow and red
I'm watching the sky beside the old cherry tree**

Freya

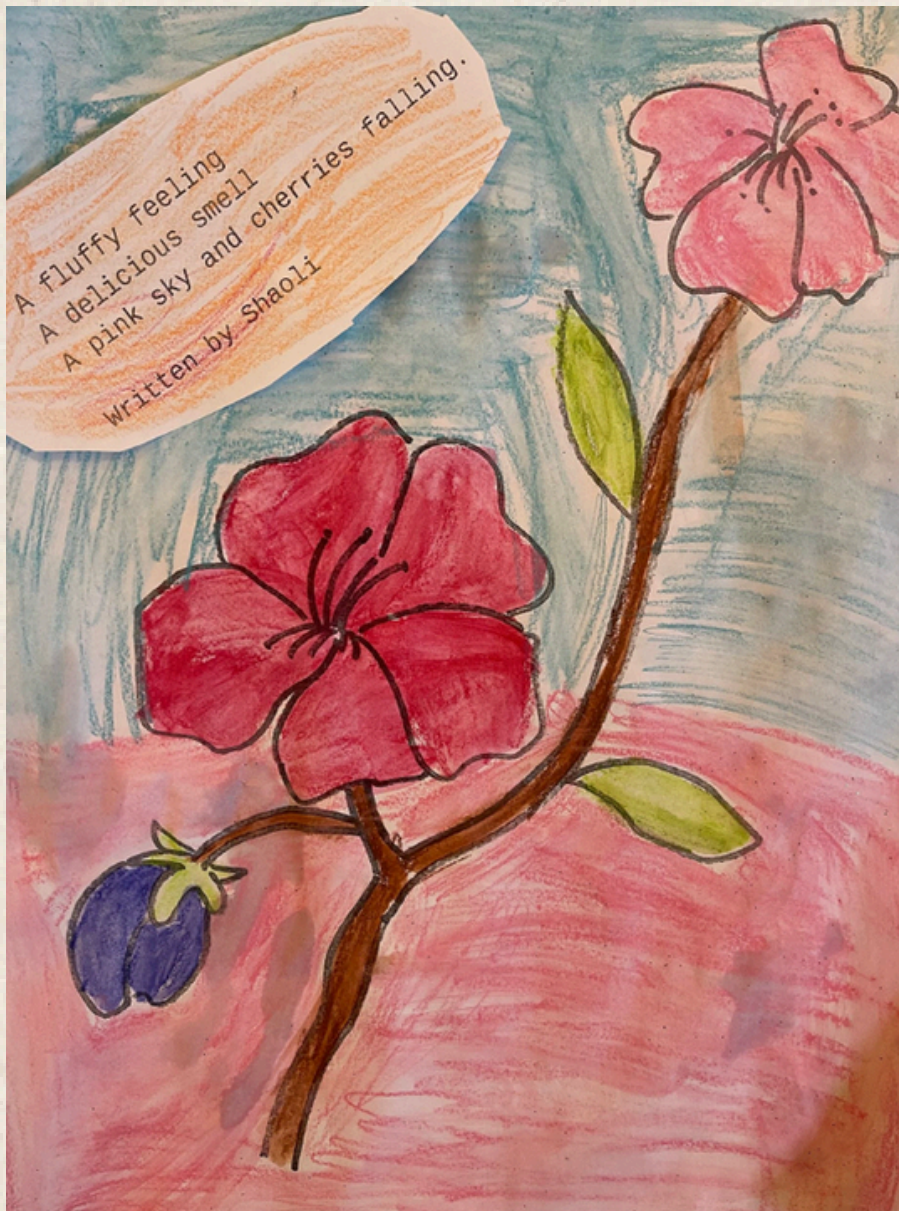
A nice cool day
A nice cherry blossom
The blue sky is staring down

Written by Oliver



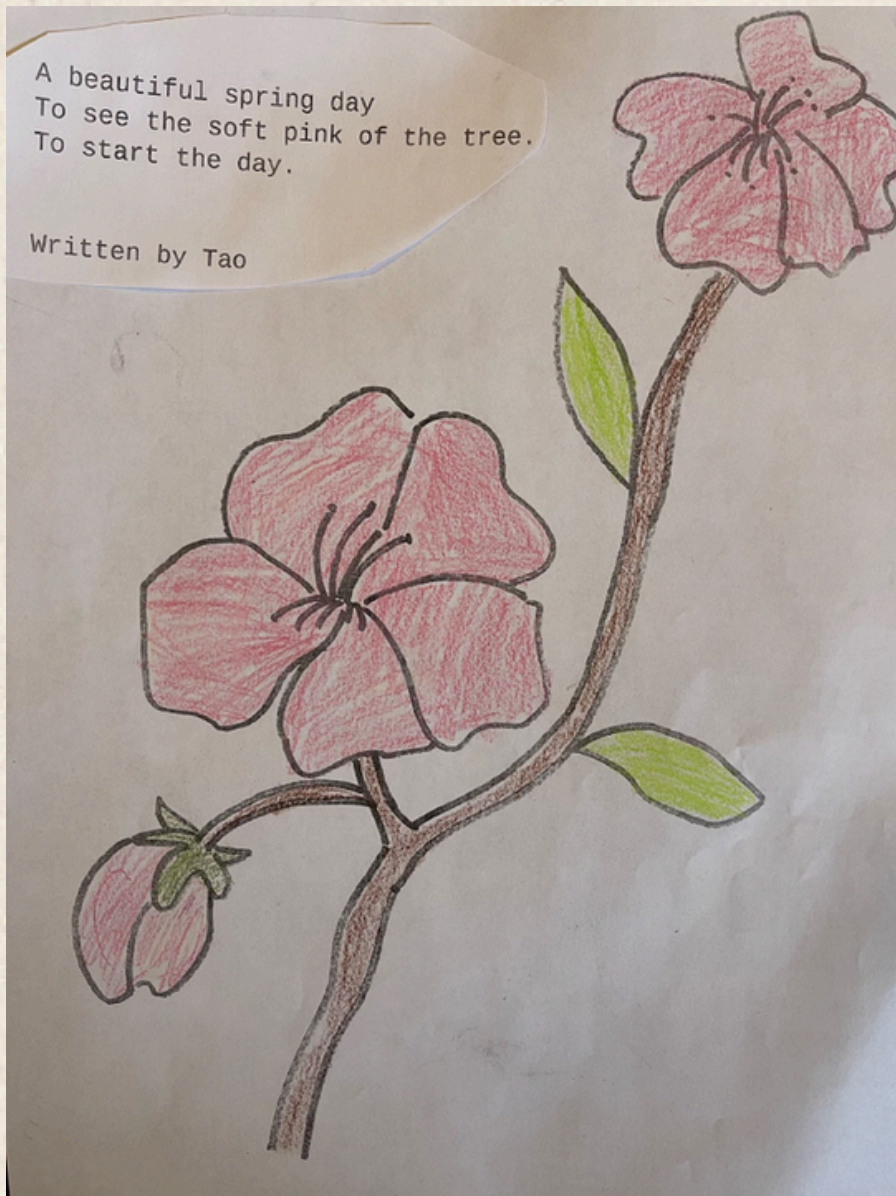
**A nice cool day
A nice cherry blossom
The blue sky is staring down**

Oliver



A fluffy feeling
A delicious smell
A pink sky and cherries falling

Shaoli

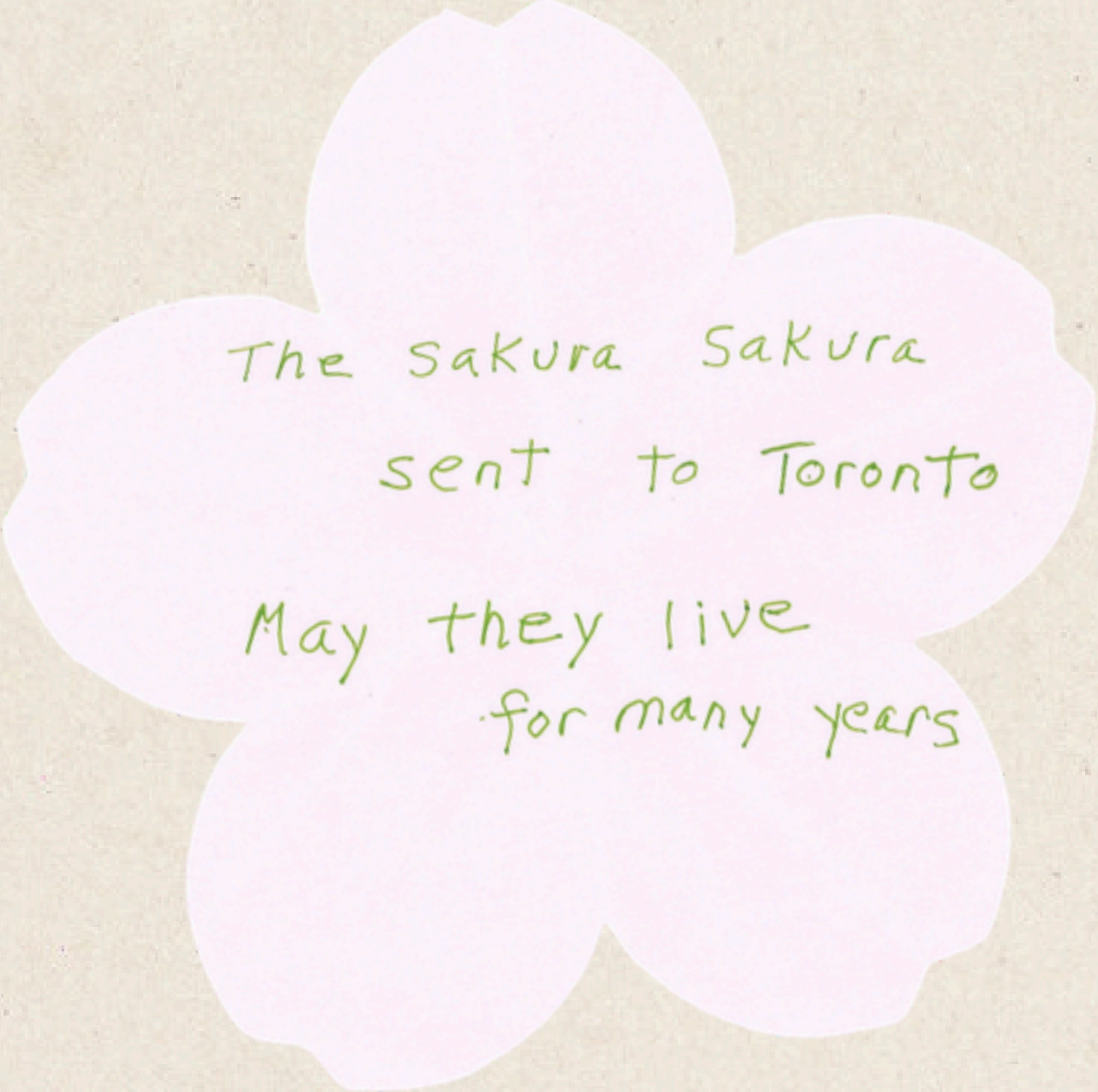


**A beautiful spring day
To see the soft pink of the tree
To start the day**

Tao

Momiji Health Care Society

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



The sakura sakura
sent to Toronto

May they live
for many years

Early spring flowers
Go to Japan in April
Just when they open.

by Ichi Yamamoto

Fragility blooms
Yet compels all to admire
Beauty of nature

Angela
C.

the weather
gets too
warm

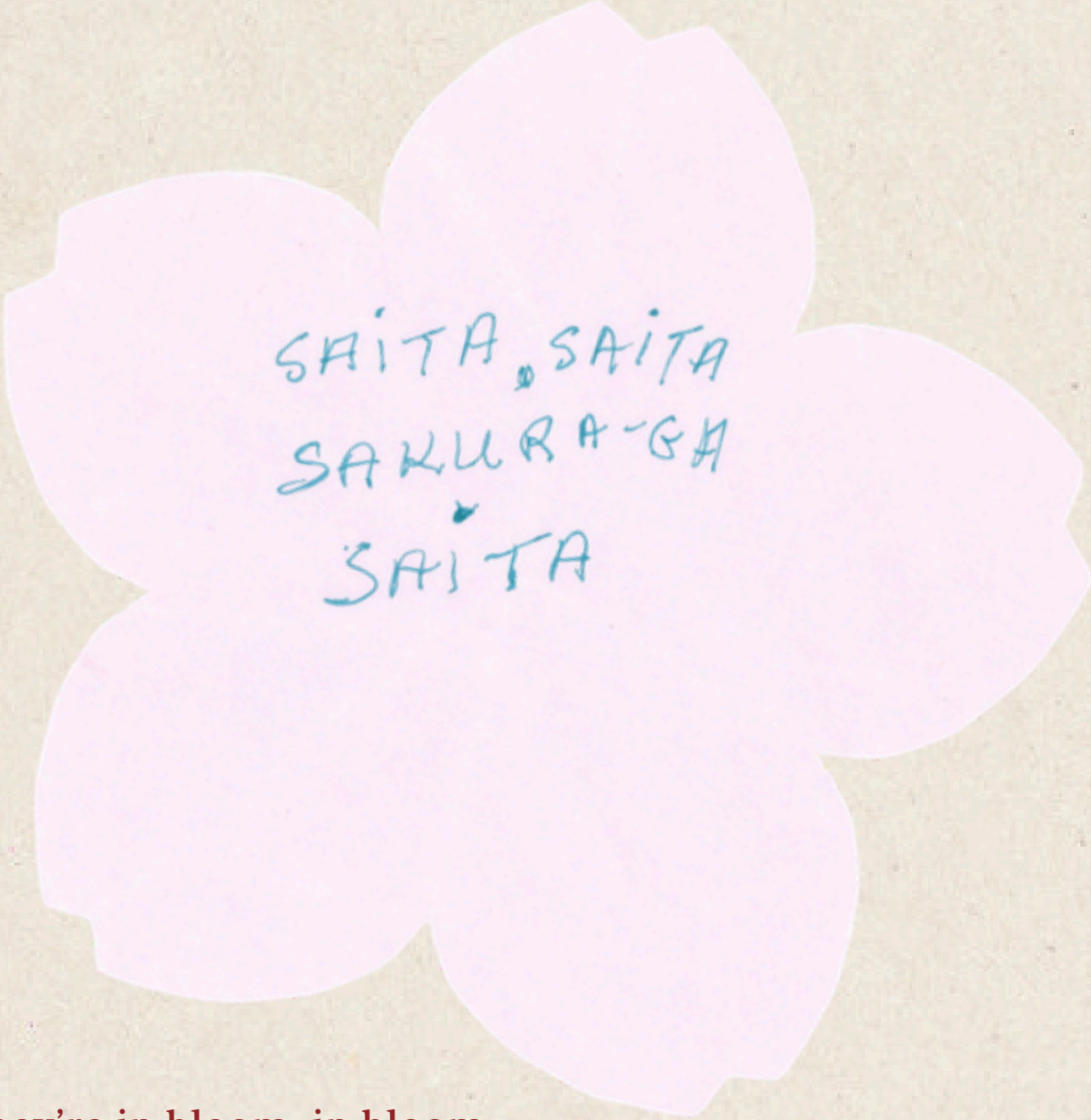
lilac
blossom



the outside
and inside
are joined

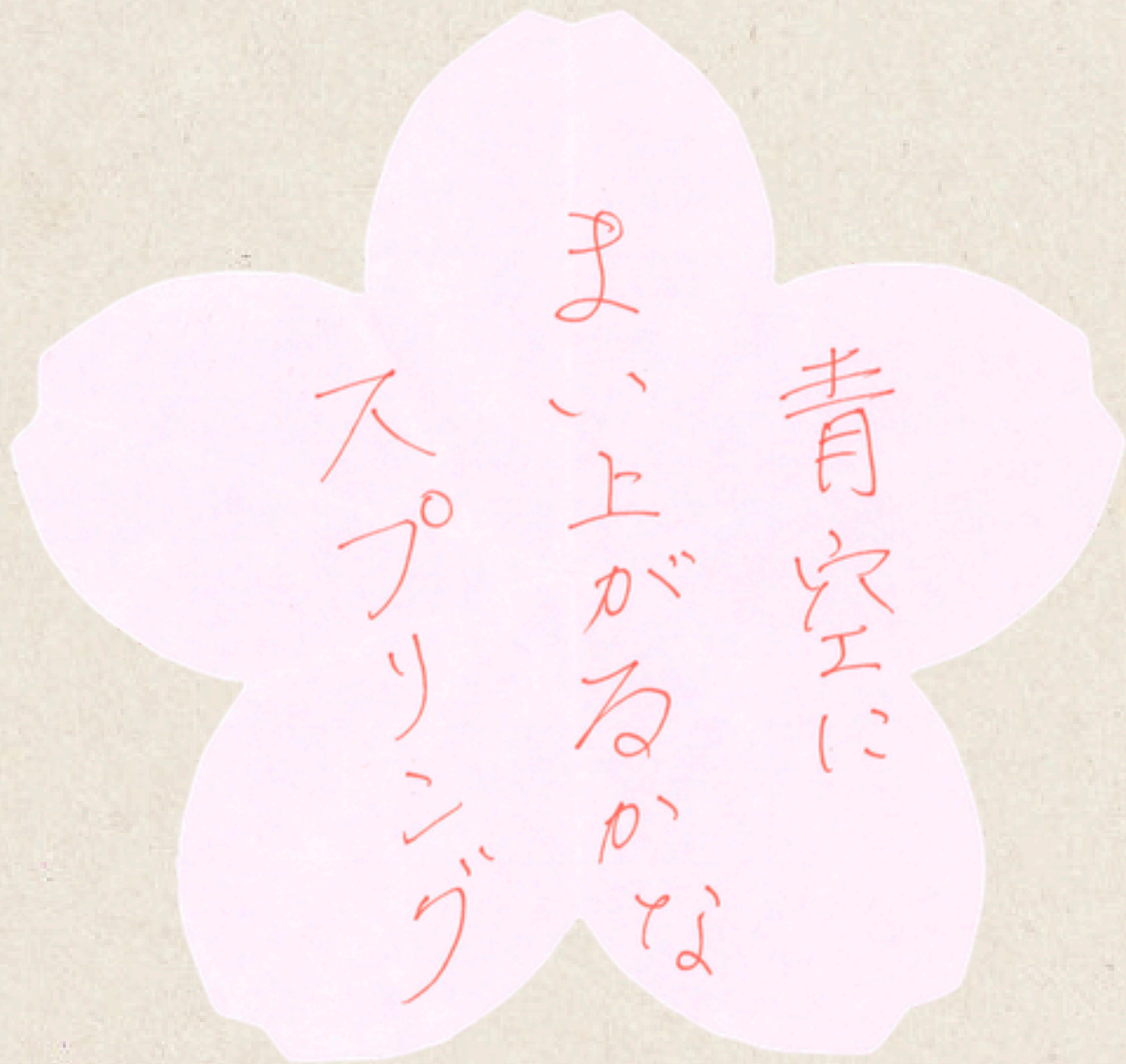
mother
cut some off

the house
has a nice
smell

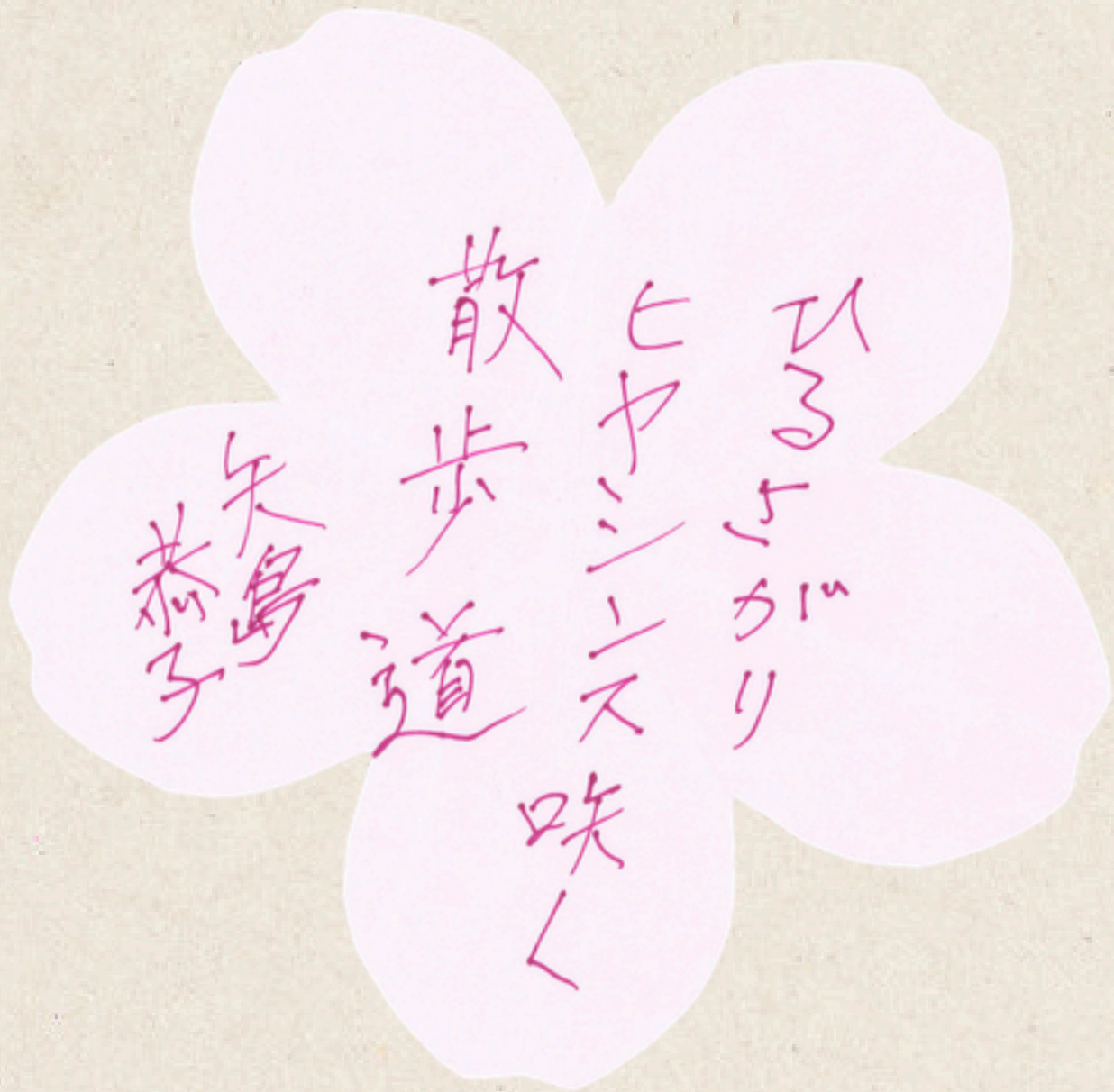


SAITA, SAITA
SAKURA-GA
SAITA

**They're in bloom, in bloom
the sakura
are in bloom**



Into the blue sky
will they be whisked up?
spring



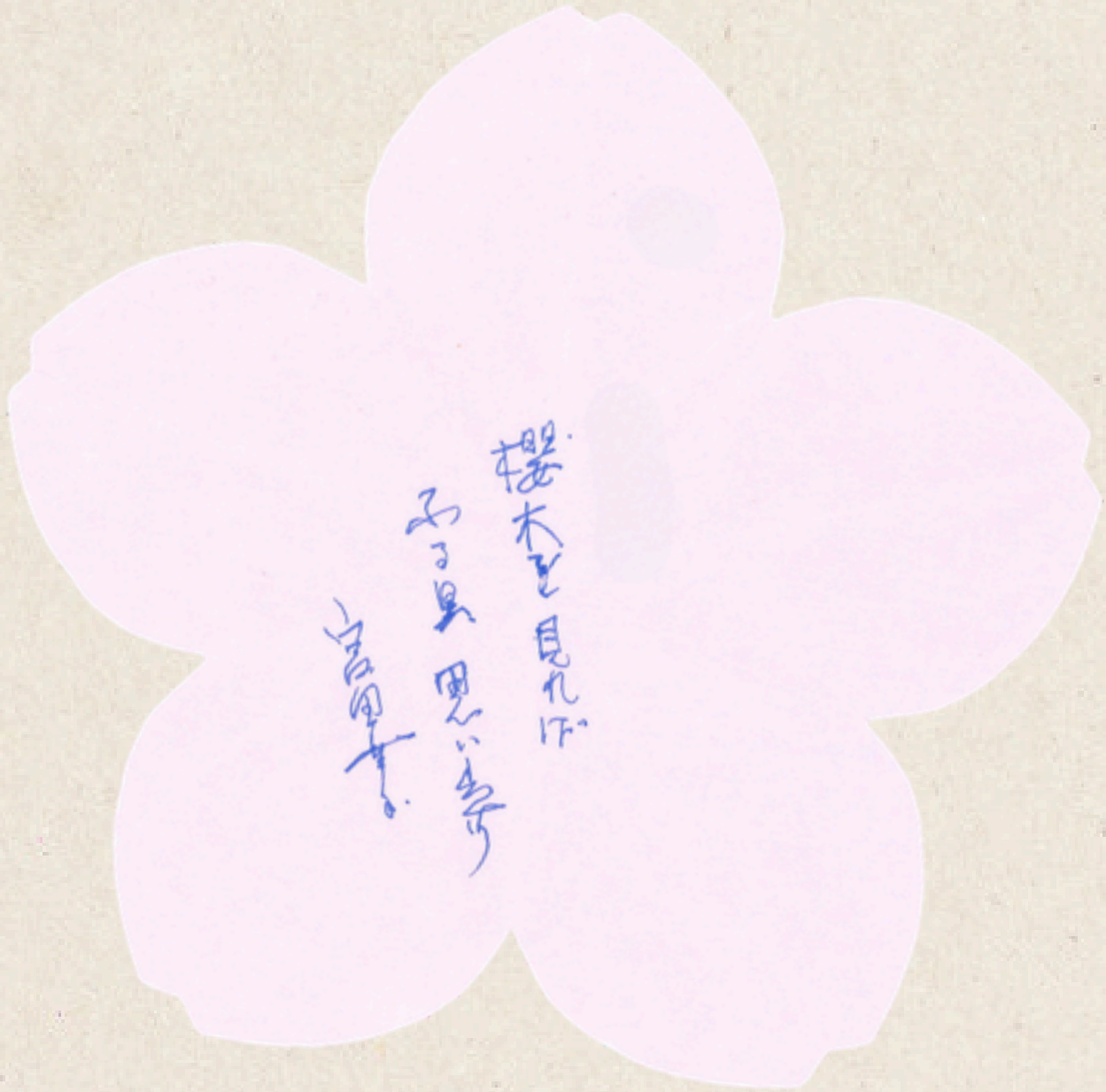
Early afternoon
hyacinth in bloom
along the walking path



Surface of the canal
frogs jumping in
form a circle

まのおちる
かえでのたねと
ははのえみ

Fluttering down
maple seeds and
my mother's smile



Looking at the sakura trees
I am reminded of home

THANK YOU

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who submitted haiku and artwork to the 2026 Sakura Haiku Challenge.

